

SOME CHANGES IN AMERICAN SPEECH SINCE 1900

by

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INTRODUCTION

Change in a spoken language is important. A static language indicates a static or a dead people, while a living, growing language indicates, as one might suspect, a living and growing race. It has been my desire, in the writing of this thesis, to show the change and growth of the English language since 1900. Especially has it been my desire to inquire into the part that the American language, or the English spoken by the American people, has played in the growth and change of the standard English language. With these desires in mind, I formulated the following general aims for the thesis:

1. To compile a general vocabulary of some of the words which have become generally used in the English language, through the medium of the American language or the American speaking people, since the year 1900.
2. To discover, if possible, just what the changes have been in the growth of the English language; how they have come about; through what media they have been received into the language; and the general trends in the growth of the language, and
3. To comment upon these words which have been added to the English language, from the aspect of their adapt-

ability and worth to the language, and the history of their formation and inception into the language.

AN EXPLANATION

The question has been raised, and probably will be raised in the future, "Is there an American language?"

As early as August 16, 1813, Thomas Jefferson, in a letter to John Waldo on the subject, wrote, "The new circumstances under which we are placed call for new words, new phrases and for the transfer of old words to new objects. An American dialect will therefore be formed."¹

At the present time, H. L. Mencken, author of The American Language, points out that it is only the formally educated American and the formally educated Englishman who can understand each other with ease. Speaking of the average American citizen, H. L. Mencken says, "In his business, in his journeys from his home to his office, in his dealings with his family and servants, in his sports and amusements, in his politics and even in his religion the American uses, not only words and phrases, but whole syntactical constructions, that are unintelligible to the Englishman, or intelligible only after laborious consideration. A familiar anecdote offers an example in miniature. It concerns a young

¹ Mencken, H. L., The American Language, 1921, 1936, p. 1.

American woman living in a region of prolific orchards who is asked by a visiting Englishman what the residents do with so much fruit. Her reply is a pun: "We eat all we can, and what we can't eat we can." This answer would mystify most Englishmen for in the first place it involves the use of the flat American a in can't and in the second place it applies an unfamiliar name to the vessel that the Englishman knows as a tin, and then adds to the confusion by deriving a verb from the substantive.^{1 2}

If, then, it is true, that there is a difference between the languages of the two countries, or that there is difficulty in the citizens of the two countries understanding each other, then we can say that there has been and is a dividing of the ways between the two countries, that the language has been split, and that a new language is being formed. Much the same has happened to the language of the Dutch people and the German people.

GENERAL METHODS

For the purpose of formulating a vocabulary of American

¹The substantive, or noun element, is found in the word can, denoting, in Americanese, a tin vessel for preserving foods. The verbal derivative is found in the word can at the end of the quotation. Much the same situation is found concerning the word tip-toe, used in America as a verb derived from a noun, but used in England as substantive or attributive only.

²Mencken, H. L., The American Language, 1921, 1936. p. 117.

words which have entered the English language, I found that I would need two things: First, a reliable and authoritative source of American words since the year 1900, and second, a trustworthy and authoritative means of comparison, to determine the extent to which the American words have become a part of the standard English language. In reviewing the field of American vocabularies of new words, I found that the Webster's New International Dictionary carried the most complete and the best group of new words. Using the Webster's New International Dictionary, then, as the standard for new words in America, I chose the New English Dictionary on Historical Principles, supplement of 1933, as the English authority on new words and phrases, and as the standard work of the English language.

Having chosen the standards of comparison, I selected from the vocabulary of new American words those words which, in general, are in common use at the present time, excluding all those words which are of an ultra-technical nature, or otherwise little known in common speech. This list, comprising 1,443 words, I then compared with the New English Dictionary on Historical Principles, commonly known as the Oxford English Dictionary, in an effort to determine the number of these words which had been included in the standard English work. Approximately 30,000 words have been exam-

ined, during the progress of this research, in the effort to reach a satisfactory conclusion.

All of the conclusions drawn will depend upon the list of 1,443 words, primarily American in use, which have been compared with the English language.

The list of 1,443 words is not complete. Three stumbling blocks have stood in the way of a complete and authoritative list of changes in English speech. First, the inability to bring together a complete list of American terms since the year 1900 has proved a major difficulty. Webster's New International Dictionary gives no positive assurance that all of the words listed in its new word supplement are of American origin. Years of toil, reading, study and research will be necessary to render a complete accounting of words added to the language by the American people. Second, I found too that the Oxford English Dictionary fails, in many instances, to give credit to American words which have come into good and general usage in the English language. The word addict, for example, is a noun, extracted from the verb, to be addicted, and meaning one who is addicted to a habit. The Oxford English Dictionary fails to give the United States credit for the inception of the word, but gives its first usage as from the United States. Third, all slang words and phrases, with the least inclination

toward American, are given American credit. Thus the list is top-heavy with slang, while legitimate words and phrases are relatively scarce. Despite these difficulties, a representative list of American words now in good and general usage in the English language has been formulated with the dates of their inception and conclusions drawn from the group.

The words comprising the completed list I have divided, for facility of discussion, into three major groups, (1) legitimate or general words; (2) cant; and (3) slang. Into the group comprising legitimate or general words I have placed those which have a non-technical, general meaning, not limited to any one group or type of people.

GENERAL WORDS

The general word group, those words in good usage, which have been formed by certain exigencies and needs, is perhaps the most important group in the language. This group comprises those words in general use, of a non-technical and unspecialized nature. The vocabulary of words, with the dates of their inception into the English language and comments on their origin, are as follows:

-A-

ACROBACY, noun. Acrobatics, especially aerial. This word,

in use by Americans since 1900, has never found a place in the English language.

ADDICT, noun. One who is addicted to a habit, especially the habit of taking some drug, as opium, cocaine, etc. The Oxford English Dictionary fails to give this word American credit. The first use of the word was found in 1909, in a Chicago newspaper, and came into general use in 1920.

AIRDROME, noun. This word was not found in this spelling. The common prefix for such words in the English language is aero- and perhaps could be found listed under this heading. Such words as airplane, airdrone, etc., in the United States, have the air- prefix, through adoption by the United States army and navy officials.

AIRPLANE, noun. A form of aircraft, heavier than air, which is driven through the sky by means of a screw propeller. This form, airplane, has been officially adopted by the United States. Aeroplane is the British usage. The first use of the word occurred in 1907.

AIRPLANE, verb intransitive. To fly an airplane. This word, a verbalization of the noun, airplane, has come into use in the United States only recently, and has not been listed as of good usage in the English language.

AIRPORT, noun. Not listed.

AMBULANCE, verb transitive. To convey by ambulance. In

American usage. This word is not listed as part of the English language.

AMERICANESSE, noun. English containing words, locutions and usages, especially slangy and colloquial, which are peculiar to the United States; also all the terms and usages, collectively, peculiar to the United States. 1907.

APACHE, noun. A member of a powerful gang or class of criminals in Paris, notorious for their desperate and vicious characters. Probably applied to the class by Americans as being of the character of the Apache Indian. Its first use was noted in 1902.

ASPIRIN, noun. 1899.

AUDIENCE, noun. This word is interesting, because, generally applied to those groups of persons listening, it has come to mean any group of persons whether listening or seeing. It has not been listed in the Oxford English Dictionary.

AUTOBUS, noun. An automobile omnibus. 1900.

AUTOTRUCK, noun. An automobile truck. Not listed.

AVALANCHE, verb intransitive. Although first used in 1897, the word has only recently come into common use in the U. S. and been admitted to the English language.

AVIATE, verb intransitive. To fly, or navigate the air, in an airplane, or heavier-than-air machine. 1900.

-B-

- BABBITT**, noun. From a character in the novel, Babbitt, by Sinclair Lewis. Not listed.
- BACK-FIRE**, noun. A purposely lighted fire ahead of an advancing prairie fire in order to deprive it of fuel and so extinguish it. 1906.
- BACK-FIRE**, verb. To act as a back-fire. This word is a verbalization of the noun, back-fire, a sudden explosion of gas under pressure. From the same source comes the word back-firing, a verbal substantive. 1909.
- BAWL**, verb. United States. To bawl out. 1907.
- BEAUTICIAN**, noun. One engaged in the business or profession of beautifying. 1926.
- BED-GROUND**, noun. The area used for the bedding-down of stock, etc. 1920.
- BELL-HOP**, noun. 1922.
- BILLFOLD**, noun. A pocketbook or case for carrying bills, or paper money. Listed as recent in Webster's New International Dictionary, it was in use before the twentieth century in England.
- BIMOTORED**, adjective. Having two motors. Not listed.
- BIOGRAPHEE**, noun. The subject of a biographer. Not listed.
- BLANKET**, verb. To suppress or cause to remain hidden. 1903.
- BLEACHERITE**, noun. One who sits in the bleachers. 1917.

BLIND, adjective. In the sense--blind baggage. 1901. In the sense of a photoplate not sensitive to light. 1911.

BLOOD, verb. To apply blood to leather in tanning. The exact date of the first general use of this word, by literary reference, is not known. However, it was after the year 1900.

BLOWOUT, noun. The bursting of a pneumatic tire. In slang, this term is used to express a party, rather loud or boisterous in character. p. 10. 1908.

BLOWOUT, adjective. A valve used for the release of excess pressure, 1911.

BLUES, noun. A distinctive melody, originating in the United States, presumably from African beginnings. A minor melody. 1921. As an adjective the word blue is often used attributively to express lowness of mood. It is possible that this term was the forerunner of the noun blues.

BLUE-SKY, adjective. Pertaining to rules, laws, etc., dealing with the keeping of the Sabbath. Of or pertaining to laws dealing with the selling and receiving of commercial securities. 1912.

BO, noun. A male person. A hobo. See **HOBO**. 1905.

BOARD, noun. A committee. 1905.

BOARD, verb. To put up and feed horses. 1905.

BOARDER, noun. A horse, or other stock, which is being fed and cared for by a person other than its owner. Also a

horse past its years of usefulness. 1903.

BOB, noun. A type of hair dress leaving the hair short, and of the same length all around the head. Presumably from the custom of clipping the tails of race-horses, or show-horses, squarely off a short distance from the root of the hair. 1918.

BOBBED, adjective. See BOB. 1918.

BOB-HAIRED, adjective. See BOB. 1923.

BOLSHEVIK, noun (sing.) --1 (pl.). In Russian politics, a member or adherent of the radical wing or party. 1917.
In its present use, the appellation applies to any radical socialist or political upheavalist, especially, one who believes in the overthrow of the institution of private property by force, and the establishment of the proletariat.
In slang usage, the name is applied to any person having different views from the person so using the name.

BOLSHEVIST, noun. Doctrines, practices, etc., of the Bolsheviki. A form of government. 1917.

BOLSHEVIST, noun. A member or adherent or follower of the Bolshevik party. 1917.

BOLSHEVIZE, verb transitive. To make Bolshevik in character.

BOLSHEVY, noun. Bolshevism; the Bolshevik world. 1921.
British.

BOMB, verb transitive. To drop upon, as from an aircraft. 1909.

BOMBER, noun. One who throws bombs. An airplane or other aircraft used for bombing. 1915.

BOOTLEG, verb intransitive and transitive. To transport or sell alcoholic liquor in prohibited territory. This word, although of seemingly recent birth, is in reality an early word, having its inception during the Whiskey Rebellion. Now, the word is used to express illicit traffic in commodities other than liquor. Booklegging, etc., are derived terms.

BOSSIBLE, adjective. The ability or tendency to be bossed, as by boss rule. Political. 1926.

BOURGEOIS, noun, masculine.

BOURGEOISE, noun, feminine.

BOURGEOIS, collective, plural. The Bolsheviks. Not listed.

BREADLINE, noun. A line of persons waiting to receive bread (or other food) given as charity. Not listed.

BROADCAST, verb transitive. To send out from a radio transmitting station. . . . 1921.

BROADCAST, noun. A presentation, by means of radio transmission, of lectures, music or messages of any kind. 1922.

BROADCASTER, noun. One who broadcasts. 1922.

BROWNING, noun. Formerly attributive, now commonly used as a noun, denoting a type of revolver manufactured by the

Browning Company. 1905.

BRUNCH, noun. A meal, combining breakfast and lunch. 1900.

BUDDY, noun. A brother, a little boy. A companion, mate, pal, also, a soldier of the United States army. Not listed.

BUNGALOW, noun. A more or less solidly constructed house for permanent residence, generally of one story, but sometimes of a story and a half. Formerly, a type of house in India, the style was adopted by the American. At present the wide, sweeping veranda is the only distinctive feature retained of the Indian style. 1903.

-C-

CABARET, noun. In the United States, a cafe or restaurant where the guests are entertained by performers who dance or sing on the floor between the tables, after the practice of certain French taverns, hence an entertainment of this nature. 1915.

CABRIOLET, noun. An automobile somewhat resembling a coupe in appearance and capacity having a folding top and glass windows in the doors. Not listed.

CADDIE (caddy), verb intransitive. To serve as a caddie. 1908.

CAFETERIA, noun. A restaurant or cafe at which the patrons serve themselves from, or are served at, a counter, taking

the food to tables to eat. 1918.

CAMOUFLAGAGE, noun. Military. The disguising of a camp, battery arsenal, ship, etc., as by paint, screens, shrubbery or the like, to reduce its visibility or conceal its actual nature from the enemy; also, the disguise so applied or utilized. This term is often used figuratively, meaning to cover an obvious fact. 1917.

CARRY, verb intransitive. -----to carry on. To keep behaving or acting in a certain way. To persevere unfalteringly in the line of duty. 1909.

CASING, noun. The shoe, or outer covering, of a pneumatic tire; also, the skin covering of a sausage. Not listed.

CANDLER, noun. One who, by placing before a strong light, looks through eggs to determine their state of preservation. 1906.

CARTOONERY, noun. Cartooning. The art of making cartoons. 1911.

CASSEROLE, noun. A vessel of earthenware, porcelain or the like, usually having a cover and a handle, in which food may be baked and served. The word, casserole, is from the French, a la casserole, attributive. The word in its present meaning is not listed.

CATAPULT, noun. Any of various mechanical devices utilizing the recoil of a spring drawn taut and suddenly released for hurling objects. 1927.

CATAPULT, verb. To throw as by a catapult. This word is a verbalization of the noun, catapult. 1928.

CATERPILLAR, noun. A tractor, bearing the trade-mark Caterpillar, made especially for use on very rough roads, which travels upon two endless belts. 1915. This is a good example, with the term Kodak, Kotex, Lux, etc., which have come to be general terms, although trade-names, for all like articles in that field. 1915.

CELESTA, noun. A keyboard instrument having a piano-like action, with hammers that strike steel plates suspended above wooden resonance boxes. 1899.

CELLOPHANE, noun. Viscose solidified in thin, transparent strips, waterproof, bearing the trade-mark, Cellophane. See Caterpillar, for explanation of such terms. 1921.

CEREAL, noun. Breakfast food, usually of whole or ground small grains, prepared for human consumption. 1906.

CEREALIST, noun. One who eats cereals. One interested in the manufacture or scientific preparation of cereals. 1905.

CHAIN-STORE, noun. One of a series of shops, or stores, in separate localities, under one management and ownership. 1922.

CHAIRWOMAN, noun. A woman presiding officer. Not listed.

CHEVON, noun. The flesh of a goat used as food. Not listed.

CHIROPRACTOR, noun. A practitioner of chiropractic; a system of adjusting the joints of the spine by hand for the curing of disease. 1913.

CHURCH, verb. To call to account in church. 1901. This procedure, and the word which has come to be associated with it, are probably a Puritan survival. The original word and meaning were probably substantive.

CHUTE, verb. To run (animals) through a chute. 1923. This word is a verbalization of the substantive.

CINEMA, noun. (Short for cinematograph.) A moving picture, also, with the moving pictures collectively; a moving-picture theater; called also cinema theater. 1910. Although it is probable that the word was originated in the United States, the British have assumed the use of the word, and at the present time, it is almost totally British in character.

CINEMATIZE, verb. To convert into a cinema. This word is a verbalization of the substantive. 1919.

CIRCUMNAVIGATE, verb transitive. To fly around in an aircraft; as, to circumnavigate the earth. Not listed.

CITATION, noun. The entering, on official records, of mention, of acts of merit or bravery, often associated with the giving of medals. 1904.

CITRANG, noun. A combination of the words citrus and orange, and forming the name of a fruit grown by breeding the two

types of fruit together. 1904. This word is not in general use. Unless the fruit becomes generally known, probably the name will not survive.

CLOVEN, noun. The loop, consisting of a metal circlet, in the end of a lariat, through which passes the free end of the rope. 1903.

CLUBMANLY, adjective. Of or pertaining to a clubman. 1912. This word, too, is not in general use. Principally, the reason for this is that clubmen seem to have no set characteristics to which to compare other persons.

CLUTTERY, adjective. Cluttered. Having no definite arrangement, scheme or routine. 1902.

COACH, noun. An automobile similar to a seadan but somewhat less roomy and of a more economical construction, having an inclosed body of one compartment, usually with two doors, and two cross seats for four or five passengers. 1904.

COASTER, noun. One who has been reared on a coast. One who professes the coast as his home. 1902.

CO-ED, noun. (Short for co-educational.) A woman enrolled in classes in American colleges and universities permitting the admission of women to their classes.

CO-EDUCATIONALISM, noun. The movement or act of admitting women to universities and colleges. 1915.

COCKPIT, noun. In some airplanes an open space or one of

the open spaces in which the pilot and the passengers are accommodated. 1915. A cockpit completely housed in is a cabin. The word was formed because of the narrow and cramped limits of the space, somewhat resembling the actual cockpit, in which cocks are allowed to fight. This is similar to the cockpit in small motored boats.

COLONIZE, verb. To make as a colony. 1909.

COLORY, adjective. Full of color. 1900. In England, the spelling is slightly different, having the traditional -oury as an ending, rather than the Americanized -ory.

COLUMNIST, noun. A writer who conducts a special department, usually one column wide, as of humor, sports or literary gossip, under a permanent title. 1920.

COLUMN, noun. A special department in a newspaper. Not listed. See COLUMNIST, above.

COMBINATION, noun. A one-piece undergarment combining corset-covers with drawers or petticoat, or, as in the union-suit, consisting of drawers and undervest. Not listed.

COMMISSAR, noun. A commissioner; member or head of a commissariat;--in recent use (through the Russian, KOMMISSAR) especially one of the people's commissars, or heads of the commissariats in the separate republics of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. 1918.

COMMISSARY (commissariat), noun. A council composed of the various commissars of the Union of Soviet Social Repub-

lies. A body of commissars or commissaries; the office of a commissar (Russian, *Kommissariat*). 1918. In the United States army, the quarter-master's office.

COMPACT, noun. A small box for face powder, usually containing also a powder puff and mirror, and sometimes also rouge. 1930. This word is one of the scattered examples of the transformation of an adjective into a noun. Formerly called a compact-case, the case has been dropped and the word compact left to mean the whole.

COMPANIONATE, adjective. Of or pertaining to companionship. Specifically, a type of marriage advocated by Judge Ben S. Lindsay, in which the contracting parties agree to enjoy marriage on a companionate basis, without children. 1927.

COMPARATIVAL, adjective. To compare to a certain degree. 1900.

COMSTOCKERY, noun. Zealous prosecution of immorality in books, papers and pictures. Hence, in a derogatory sense, censorious opposition to any work of art, as in a book, or picture, which infringes on strict standards of morality or purity. Prudery. 1905. The word was taken from the name of Anthony Comstock, an American reformer, who carried his reforms to great lengths.

CONCOURSE, noun. A hall, usually very large. 1905.

CONGENIAL, noun. A person with a congenial nature. 1908.

From the adjective, congenial.

CONGRESSWOMAN, noun. A woman who is a member of the congress of the United States. Not listed. It is probable that the term originated with the election of Mrs. Hattie Caraway to congress in 1932, at the death of her husband.

CONSERVATIVE, noun. A person, usually in politics, opposed to progress as expressed in the inception of new policies, acts, etc., and without liberal or radical tendencies. 1900. It is probable that this word is not American in origin, there having been Liberal and Conservative parties in Europe during the past half century. The term has been received into the American language to designate members of the established parties in America, such as 'John Doe, a Republican, is a conservative.'

CONTACT, verb. To meet; to get in touch with. To make an obvious effort to meet a person, in order to transact business. 1929.

CONTRACEPTION, noun. The prevention of conception or impregnation. See BIRTH CONTROL, in dictionary. 1917. The word, contraception, is an off-shoot of the word contraceptive, a device for the control of impregnation. The practice of birth control was begun early, but the term applied to it has come into being only recently.

CONTRACEPTIVE, noun. A means of contraception. A device for the prevention of impregnation of the female. 1897.

CONTRARY, verb. To annoy by opposition. 1900.

COONCAN, noun. A game of cards derived from conquan, played by two or more players with one or two packs of cards. 1905.

COOPERATIVE, noun. A cooperative enterprise, establishment or the like. Not listed.

COPENHAGEN, noun. A certain light shade of blue. Not listed.

CORSAGE, noun. A bouquet of flowers to be worn at the shoulder, neck or waist. 1911.

COSMOCRACY, noun. (Rare.) A government including the whole world. The people of the world, especially, when regarded as the sources of government. Not listed.

COSMOCRAT, noun. (Rare.) A universal monarch or world ruler. One who believes in the tenets of cosmocracy. Not listed.

COUPE, noun. An automobile having an inclosed body of one compartment usually seating two to four persons, including the driver. 1912.

COUPONNED, participial adjective. Pages or sheets of papers having coupons printed upon their surfaces. 1915.

CREDIT, noun. In a college or university, the reward for the successful completion of a course of study. The receiving of a certain number of credits entitles the holder to a degree. 1904.

CROOK, adjective. Of or pertaining to a crook or crooks; having a connection with the criminal element. 1929.

This word has not come into general use because of the difficult phonetic quality in connection with other words of the language; as, crook doctor, crook hideout, etc.

CROOKDOM, noun. The territory inhabited by crooks. The criminal element taken as a unit. 1921.

CRUISER, noun. A police car, engaged in travelling up and down streets, in an effort to apprehend law-breakers. The modern cruiser is equipped with short-wave radio, by which orders may be given to it by superior officers. 1929.

CUBAN HEEL, noun. (Shoes.) A high, straight heel, without the curve of the French heel. 1909.

CUBISM, noun. (Art.) A movement or phase in post-impressionism, whereby all ideas, abstract and concrete, are portrayed through the medium of cubes, straight lines and angles. 1911.

CURB, noun. The body of curbstone brokers, located in large cities. 1903.

CURRICULAR, adjective. Of or pertaining to the regular courses of study, as in a school or university. Not listed

CUT, verb. The act of being absent from class lectures or recitations in colleges and universities. 1920. From the verb, to cut, has come the noun, cut, an absence from class. 1920.

CUTTER, noun. In the cattle round-up, the person who separates one type of cattle from the main group, either for branding or for sale. 1910.

-D-

DAM, noun. A guard, consisting of rubber, to be placed around a tooth to prevent saliva from reaching the member. A dentist's appliance. 1901.

DANIELIC, adjective. Of or pertaining to or in the manner of the Book of Daniel, in the Old Testament of the Bible. Not listed.

DEADLOCK, verb. From the noun DEADLOCK. The act or action of forestalling further action by bringing it to the end of its possibilities. In legislative action, the action of bringing about a deadlock. 1903.

DEBUNK, verb. To bring out the truth. 1921.

DECATHLON, noun. In the modern Olympian games, a composite contest consisting of ten events. 1920. The type of play originated in college and university track meets in the United States, and in 1920 was made a part of the Olympian sports meet.

DECELERATE, verb transitive. To retard; to apply negative acceleration. Verb intransitive. To move with decreasing velocity; to have negative acceleration. 1899.

DECODE, verb transitive. To translate (a message) into ordinary language. 1896.

DECONTROL, verb transitive. To end control, especially governmental control, of, as a trade or commodity. 1923.

DECONTROL, noun. The ending of control, especially governmental control (over a trade, or the like). 1919.

DEFEATIST, noun. One who desires, or who admits or proclaims before the fact, the defeat of his own country, party or movement, or the like, on the ground that the continuation of a contest is impossible or impracticable or that a greater ultimate good may redound to the country, party, etc., from defeat rather than victory. 1918.

DEFEATISM, noun. Collectively, defeatists as a whole, with their beliefs, tenets, etc. 1918.

DELOUSE, verb transitive. To remove lice from. 1918. This word, with the word cootie (slang, originated with the American soldier in the World War, where authorized and regular delousing stations were provided for the process.

DEMOUNTABLE, adjective. Capable of being demounted;--said of a form of rim, for an automobile wheel, which can be removed with its tire. Not listed.

DEPORTEE, noun. A person who has been deported, or is under sentence of deportation. 1895.

DETOUR, verb. From the noun DETOUR. The act or action of following a detour. To send by a detour. 1905.

DIG, verb intransitive. -----to dig in. To excavate a trench or system of trenches for occupancy in defense; as,

the army dug itself in. 1917.

DILUTION, noun. The substitution of unskilled labor for skilled in such industrial operations as do not require skill, but which are sometimes, as under trade-union regulations, reserved for skilled labor. 1919. A trade-unionism.

DIRIGIBLE, noun. See **AIRSHIP**, in dictionary. A lighter-than-air machine, filled usually with helium gas, and driven forward by several motors, having propellers or screws attached to their drive shafts. 1907.

DISCOVER, verb transitive. -----to be discovered. Originally, in drama, to be disclosed to the audience when the curtains were parted; hence, to be present as part of a dramatic representation at the opening of a scene; as "John is discovered seated" In colloquial use, to discover a person. To find talent. Not listed.

DISMISS, verb. To free by formal discharge. 1917. To free one accused. 1904.

DRAFTEE, noun. One who has been drafted, as for military service, or service of any kind. Not listed.

DRESSER, noun. A toilet table. 1906. In England, a dresser is a kitchen cabinet, while a cabinet is a dressing table.

DRONE, noun. Short for airdrome. A building for the housing of airplanes or dirigibles. 1915.

-E-

EAGLE, noun. (Golf.) A score of two strokes less than par on any hole but a par three hole. 1922. Generally used attributively, as "an eagle three," etc.

EATERY, noun. A restaurant, generally of a low class. 1923. This is an interesting word because of the type of word that it represents. The -ery first appeared in American in the word printery in 1685. Since then such words as beanery, grocery (for grocery-store), 1806, and groggery, 1822. Bakery and bindery seem also to be American. Recently many such cognates have appeared, among them being boozery, bootery, breadery, condensery, etc.¹

In the western section of the United States, according to Dr. Louise Pound, hashery, drinkery and drillery, the last signifying a cramming-school for the Civil Service, have entered the language,² and E. C. Hills adds such words as cakery, car-washery, doughnuttery, mendery and lunchery.³

EDITOR, noun. Formerly, the publisher of a daily newspaper or a magazine, now indicating the literary manager of a publishing house. 1930.

¹Mencken, H. L., The American Language. 1936. p. 176.

²Pound, Louise, "Vogue Affixes in Present-Day Word Coinage," Dialect Notes. Vol. V, Part 1, 1918.

³Hills, E. C., American Speech, The Irradiation of Certain Suffixes. October 1925.

EGOCENTRIC, adjective. Having one's attention centered on one's self and on one's own interests. Noun, a person having egocentric characteristics. 1897.

EINSTEINIAN, adjective. Of or pertaining to Albert Einstein, German physicist, or theory of light developed by him. 1925. Commonly thought to have developed the theory of relativity, Einstein only used the theory of relativity to substantiate his theory of the curvature of light in space.

EL, noun. Short for elevated; the elevated railway of New York and other large cities, consisting of tracks elevated on steel structures over which run electric and steam cars. 1906.

EMBUS, verb transitive. To put (as troops, etc.,) into a bus or busses (or motor truck or trucks). Verb intransitive. To get into a bus or busses. 1915.

EMPLOYEE, noun. A person hired by an employer. 1923. Formerly the British spelling employee was used almost exclusively, but the American system of simplifying spellings has dropped the final e.

ENDORSE, verb. To give sanction to, or approval of, a thing, act, saying, etc. Commonly used in connection with advertisements, wherein people of note give their approval of the product to be sold. 1914.

ENDORSE (cont'd). According to H. L. Mencken, the word endorse was one of a series of words--to affiliate, to endorse, to collide, to jeopardize, to predicate, to itemize, to resurrect, to Americanize--which were formed following the Civil War and which survived the plush elegance of that period.¹ The word, in its advertising meaning, however, is comparatively new.

EPISODE, noun. One chapter of a serial in the cinema. Not listed.

EXTRACURRICULAR, EXTRACURRICULUM, adjective. Pertaining to those activities, as debating, dramatics and athletics, which form part of the life of school or college students, but which are not part of the regular courses of study. Not listed.

-F-

PAKIR, noun. A person professing to powers not granted to the average human--powers of magic, thought transference, etc. 1902.

FANDOM, noun. The world of fans (that class of people who have as their idols and write to, people of prominence). 1928.

FEMINISM, noun. The theory, cult or practice of those who

¹ Mencken, H. L., The American Language, 1936. "The Period of Growth," part 2, p. 141.

hold that present laws, conventions and conditions of society prevent the free and full development of woman, and who advocate such changes as will do away with undue restrictions upon her political, social and economic conduct and relations; also, the propaganda for securing these changes. 1895.

FETCHER, noun. One who fetches or attracts. 1909.

FILM, noun. The photographic film, in the form of a flexible strip, used in making a moving picture. It is about an inch wide, of sensitized translucent material resembling celluloid and is used in making both negatives and positives. Early.

FILM, verb transitive. To photograph on a film for use in cinematograph. 1915.

FILMIZE, verb transitive. To make a moving picture film, as of a play. Not listed.

FILM PLAY. A photoplay. Not listed. All of the terms used in connection with the production of moving pictures are, in all probability, American in origin. The original production of such works is American in origin, and the technique and vocabulary used to express the ideas of the industry were all produced at that time.

FINALIST, noun. (Sports.) Any of the players who meet in the final round of a tournament in which the losers in any round do not play again. 1898.

PINK, noun. One who engages as a strike-breaker, but is inexperienced in the work to be done. 1928.

FIVESOME, noun. (Golf.) A group, consisting of five players, who play round the golf course together, as one group. 1928.

FLEET, noun. A group of aircraft or other vehicles or other objects that may be likened to a fleet of vessels. Early.

FLU, noun. Short for influenza, a disease. Not listed.

This word came into prominence during the World War.

FLY, verb transitive. To pass or journey over by flying.

Early. To manage in flight. Early. Verb intransitive.

To fly an airplane. 1902.

FOLLOW-UP, adjective. Of or pertaining to renewed or repeated action; as, a follow-up visit. Pertaining to a second or subsequent offer or proposal, as to a possible customer. 1923. Verb. To return again. Noun. The act of following up.

FORD, noun. The trade-name of a popular low-priced automobile. Not listed.

FORUM, noun. An organization which holds public attention for the discussion of subjects of current interest to leader and audience. Not listed.

FOXTROT, noun. A dance in four-four time, including slow walking steps, quick running (trotting) steps. 1917.

FRANCHIZER, noun. One who makes franchises, or one who

fight for a franchise. 1907. The American spelling, franchise, is different from the -ize ending of the English. The spelling of the word in the Oxford English Dictionary is franchise, but the word is given American credit.

FRAPPE, noun. A frappe mixture or beverage. Frappe, adjective, is an iced or frozen dessert.

FUNCTIONALIZE, verb. To make ready for functioning. 1923.

FUNNY, noun. A Sunday newspaper comic strip, usually colored. Hence, any strip, colored or uncolored, appearing in any newspaper and telling a story.

FUSELAGE, noun. The elongated structure, of approximately streamline form, to which are attached the wings and the tail unit of the airplane and which is primarily designed to hold the passengers, power plant, cargo, etc. 1909.

-G-

GANGSTER, noun. One of a gang of workmen. 1927. Of recent years, the term has been applied to a type of criminal who does his work as a member of a group, rather than alone, and who works at what is commonly called rackets. According to Mencken, "Now, as in the past, -ster has an approving significance, and so its chief products are such words as gangster, mobster, dopester, ringster, funster,

shyster and speedster.¹ It is not difficult to note that all words containing the -ster suffix, seem to have such an approprious connotation. However, some words with such a suffix do not have such a connotation. The word huckster,² one who sells by shouting his wares, is a notable example of that fact.

GARAGE, noun. (Aeronautics.) A shed to house one or more airships or flying machines; as a hanger. 1909. This term is in general disuse, the better known hangar having taken its place. (Shipping.) A siding in a canal. 1918. A storage place for automobiles. 1902. It is probable that the word garage has come to American speech by way of the English. It is French in origin.

GARAGE, verb. To place in a garage. 1906.

GAS, noun. Any substance, whether gaseous, liquid or solid under ordinary conditions, used to produce a poisonous or irritant atmosphere, as in the World War. 1915.

GAS, noun. Short for gasoline, a volatile fuel. 1905. The process by which the word gas was derived from gasoline is

¹ Mencken, H. L., The American Language, "The Language To-day," 1936. p. 178.

² The word huckster is itself a modern version of the rather hawkster, composed of the verb, to hawk, as wares, with the spelling changed to the phonetic huck, and the -ster suffix added to denote one who hawks.

one which is commonly called clipping, in effect a search for short roots in long words. "This habit," says Mencken, "in Restoration days, precipitated a quasi-English word, mobile, from the Latin mobile vulgus, and in the days of William and Mary it went a step further by precipitating mob from mobile. Mob is now sound English, but in the Eighteenth Century it was attacked by the purists then in eruption, and though it survived their onslaught they undoubtedly greatly impeded the formation and adoption of other words of the same category. There are, however, many more in Standard English, e. g., patter from pater-noster, van from caravan, spats from spatter-dashes, wig from periwig, cab from cabriolet We have in recent years witnessed the genesis of phone for telephone, gas for gasoline"¹ It is interesting to note that in England, what is commonly known as gasoline or gas in America, is petrol in England.

GAS, verb transitive. To replenish (a balloon or airship) with gasoline or gas. 1922. To poison or asphyxiate with a gas. 1915. To cause (as a metal) to absorb gas. To injure or deteriorate by the action of a gas. Not listed.

GAS, verb intransitive. To give off gas, as a metal, during cooling or solidification. Not listed.

¹ Mencken, H. L., The American Language, "The Language Today," 1936. pp. 168-169.

GEORGETTE, noun. A thin, more or less transparent, silk crepe of very fine texture. 1920.

GLIDER, noun. (Aeronautics.) A form of aircraft similar to an airplane, but without any power plant. Early. (Nautical.) A flat power boat of moderate size, very shallow, and high-speed, based on the principle of emergence, or the tendency of the hull to rise out of the water and glide upon the surface as the speed increases. Not listed.

GLIDER, noun. A person who uses a glider. 1910.

GONDOLA, noun. An elongated car attached to the under side of a dirigible balloon. 1914.

GRAYFISH, noun. The common dog-fish;--so called since it has been found to be of value as food. Not listed.

GRILL, verb. To question. 1928. Commonly associated with the efforts of the police to elicit information from suspects or witnesses to a crime, etc.

GROCETERIA, noun. A grocery store in which the customers help themselves and pay the cashier as they leave. 1918. Groceteria is a trade-name. The suffix, -teria, as defined by J. M. Steadman, Jr., has three meanings: "1. A place where articles are sold on the self-service plan; 2. a place where certain articles are sold without the self-service feature; and 3. a place where certain services are rendered--by others, not by the customer himself."¹

¹ Steadman, J. M. Jr., American Speech, see BASKETERIA, June 1930.

A rather extensive list of words having the -teria ending, as given by Mencken, include the following: Cafeteria, the progenitor of the list, restauranteria, garmenteria, shaveteria (a place where shaving utensils are supplied to wayfarers), shooteria, resteteria (a rest-room), chocolate-ria, sodateria, fruiteria, radioteria, bobateria (where hair is bobbed), valoteria, marketeria, caketeria, candyteria, casketeria, drugteria, basketeria, cleaneteria, groceteria, healtheteria, farmateria, mototeria (a groceteria on wheels), cashateria, wrocketeria (a boneyard for old automobiles), luncheteria, habarteria, hatateria, kalfeteria or kafateria (a shoe store) and many others.¹ It is extremely unlikely that words such as the foregoing will ever be admitted to good usage in the English language. Cafeteria will probably be the only one to reach the language and come into general use.

GUN, noun. Something suggestive of a gun, as in shape or function, as, a syringe or kind of small hand pump; as, grease, or the like; as, a grease gun. A larger apparatus for forcibly spraying or throwing on cement, concrete mixtures, etc.; as, a cement gun. Not listed.

¹ Mencken, H. L., The American Language, "The Language Today," 1936. pp. 176-177.

-H-

HEADLINER, noun. A person or thing having mention made of it in the headlines of newspapers, or having a prominent position in the newspapers or magazines; also, a person appearing in a favored position in the theater. 1907. In England what is known as a headliner, is called a toplineer. English newspaper headlines are toplinees.

HEDGE, noun. A condition which exists on the American stock exchange in which investments are made to protect other investments or investment in the same field. 1917.

HESITATION, noun. A form of waltz in which the dancers intersperse at pleasure a certain "hesitating" movement or gliding movement; also, the movement itself. 1914.

HEXATHLON, noun. In the Y. M. C. A. indoor athletics, a composite contest consisting of six events: a standing broad jump, a fence vault, putting a shot, a running high jump, a 60 yard potato race and a 160 yard potato race. Not listed. The word hexathlon is a combination of the Greek hex meaning six, and athlon, event.

HIGH-LIFE, noun. A person who indulges in life almost to the extent of dissipation; also, a person full of spirit. 1902.

HIGH-LIFED, adjective. Of or pertaining to a person or animal full of spirit. 1902.

HIGHWAY, noun. An improved main road, forming a continuous route for long-distance automobile travel, generally passing through several states and usually bearing a distinctive name or number. Not listed. Undoubtedly the word highway was originated long before the beginning of the twentieth century, but the new interpretation or the giving of names and numbers has been a new interpretation.

HITLERITE, noun. A person having the beliefs or following tenets or commands of Adolph Hitler, present dictator of Germany. 1930. The presence of the -ite ending brands the word as being undoubtedly of American origin. 1930.

HOBO, noun. A person, generally a man, who travels over the country seeking an existence or livelihood by doing itinerant labor. 1906. From the word hobo have sprung the words hobodom, meaning hoboes collectively or the world of hoboes, and hobocism, the acts or beliefs of hoboes. Hoboes must be distinguished from tramps. By their own admission they are not beggars but travelling workmen. In the argot the word hobo is contracted to "bo". It is probable that hobo is a contraction of the words hello brother reduced to hello bo and finally contracted to the word as we know it now. The custom of calling each other by the name of hobo probably originated through the greetings of walking men to each other, while passing through the countryside. It is not an approbrious term.

HOMESTEADING, verbal noun. The act or action of living on and cultivating a piece of land, the property of the federal government of the United States, until such property finally becomes the property of the person so doing. 1906. It is probable that this word was in use much before the first of the twentieth century.

HOMETOWN, noun. The birthplace of an individual. 1912.

The words home town were in use early, but it has been only recently that the two have been joined to make one word.

HOOD, noun. The removable metal covering over the engine.

Not listed. In England the hood is known as a bonnet.

Before the twentieth century hood was synonymous with foot-pad, bandit, highwayman or stick-up man.

HOSPITALIZE, verb. To place in a hospital. This word is one of a type of word which has come into being since the World War. Included in a list of words are: to author, to service, to demagogue, to interview and to debut. The most prominent group of words of a like nature formed by adding hyphen to nouns or adjectives are: to simonize, to slenderize, to winterize, to vacationize and to picturize.

HOUSEMAN, noun. A male servant employed to do the heavier kinds of housework as in a hotel. Not listed.

HUBBARD, noun. A squash. 1924. Formerly an adjective, the name of the originator of the type of vegetable known as the Hubbard squash; the name has come to mean the vegetable itself.

-I-

IDEA, noun. A large scheme or plan. 1928.

IDLE, verb. To slow down an engine to its lowest point of deceleration. 1931. This word was probably used much earlier than 1931, but probably came into being after 1900.

IGNITION, noun. In internal combustion engines, the means of igniting a mixture as an electric spark from a magneto or a battery, or, in a Diesel engine, the heat caused by compression.

INAUGURATE, verb. To set up a plan or system for operation. This word is commonly used in regard to the installation in office of public officials; as, the president of the United States. 1905.

INAUGURATION, noun. The ceremonies connected with inaugurating a public official. 1905.

INCOMMUNICADO, adjective. Without means of communication; in solitary confinement; as, to hold a prisoner incommunicado.

IN SO-FAR, adverb. In so far; in such measure or degree;-- followed by as and usually written as three words. Not listed.

INSPIRATOR, noun. One who inspires. 1903.

INSTITUTIONALIZE, verb. To place in an institution; to conform (a person) to the ways and methods of an institution.

1905. See HOSPITALIZE, above.

INSTITUTIONIZE, verb. See INSTITUTIONALIZE, above. 1903.

INSTITUTIONALISM, noun. The practices, methods, etc., which make up the work of institutions as a whole. 1907.

INSURGENT, noun. (United States political.) A member of a political party, especially a member holding a legislative position, who acts contrary to the policies and decisions of his party; specifically one of an anti administration group in the Republican party. 1920.

INTELLECTUALSIA, noun. Educated or learned people collectively; the intellectual or professional group, class or period. 1914.

INTER-BOROUGH, adjective. Pertaining to, situated in or operating between two or more boroughs; as, an inter-borough railway. 1905.

INTER-CHURCH, adjective. Pertaining to, common to or shared in by a number of churches or all churches. 1905.

INTEREST, noun. -----the interests. Large and powerful financial, commercial and industrial organizations, often used in a sinister sense because they are popularly supposed to control or influence economic or political activities. Not listed.

INTERNATIONALE, noun. Any of several working class socialist organizations of international scope. The word first came into general use in 1912, but only reached its world

significance in 1933 when internationales were organized.

INTERNATIONALISM, noun. The doctrine or belief that world peace may be obtained by friendly association of all nations on a basis of equality and without sacrificing national character (nationalism) for the securing of international justice and for cooperation in all matters of world-wide interest. 1902.

INTERSCHOLASTIC, adjective. Existing, or carried on, between schools, especially secondary schools. Not listed.

INTRACOASTAL, adjective. Within or pertaining to the waters near the coast; as, an intercoastal waterway. Not listed.

INTRACOLLEGIATE, adjective. Existing, or carried on, within one college or university. Not listed.

INTRAGROUP, adjective. Of or pertaining to the activities carried on within a group. Not listed.

-J-

JAYWALKER, noun. One who walks like a "jay" or gawky person; especially, one who crosses streets carelessly or at unusual and inappropriate places, or in a dangerous or illegal direction, so as to be endangered by traffic. 1925.

JERKWATER, adjective. Of or pertaining to things whose smallness makes them inconsequential. 1911. This word probably was coined in the mid-west, and was used by railroad men for towns at which the only stop was to take on

water, called "jerking" water.

JOINTIST, noun. A joiner. 1906.

JOKER, noun. An unobtrusive clause inserted in contracts, legislation, etc., and affecting its operation in a way not immediately apparent. 1904.

JUGOSLAV, JUGO-SLAV, noun and adjective. See JUGOSLAV, below. Early.

JUNIOR COLLEGE. A college usually connected with a secondary school which gives not more than two years of college work. 1919.

-K-

KAISERDOM, noun. The office, domain or jurisdiction of a kaiser; also, kaiserism. 1914. I cannot say that the word is American, but the ending is typical of the usual -dom suffix, now largely employed in the United States.

KALE, noun. (Slang.) Money. 1927.

KEY, noun and adjective. The advertisement, placed in a particular newspaper or magazine, which acts as a criterion for all other advertising of the same article. Also called key advertisement. 1905.

KEYNOTE, noun. United States political. A speech delivered at a political convention presenting the fundamental issues of a campaign or movement. Not listed.

KEYNOTER, noun. A person who makes a keynote address. Not

listed.

KIP, noun. The gymnastic figure of raising one's self by the arms to a cross bar, and by raising the feet in the air, gain momentum enough to go through the gymnast upright several feet in front of the bar. 1911.

KIP, verb. To execute a kip. 1911.

KITCHENETTE (kitchenet), noun. A very small room or an alcove combining kitchen and pantry, with the conveniences compactly arranged. 1922. Cellarette is English, but kitchenette, like farmerette, conductorette, officerette and a number of other analogous words, is American.

KIWANIAN, noun. Any member of any of a large number of clubs (Kiwans), in the United States and Canada, having the same constitution. The first such organization was organized in Detroit. 1915. Not listed.

-L-

LAME DUCK, noun. An office holder, as a senator or congressman, who has failed of re-election, especially one whose term has not expired;--often used attributively, as, a lame-duck congress. Not listed. "Such a term as lame-duck IS almost a complete treatise on American psychology; it reveals the national habit of mind more clearly than any labored inquiry could ever reveal it. It has in it precisely the boldness and contempt for ordered forms that

are so characteristically American, and it has too the grotesque humor of the country, and the delight in devastating opprobriums, and the acute feeling for the succinct and savory. The same qualities are in rough-house, rubberneck, water-wagon, has-been, speed-con and a thousand other such racy substantives, and in all the great stock of native verbs and adjectives."¹

LANDPLANE, noun. An airplane designed to rise from and alight on the land. Not listed.

LEAGUE, noun. The League of Nations. The League of Nations was organized in 1919, when the name came into general use. Since then, Americans have shortened the phrase to the league. It is natural to suppose that the shortening of the term or phrase followed closely on the organization of the League of Nations, for the American people are singularly quick to change a rather dull name to a new and shorter name.

LEGIONER, noun. A legionnaire. Not listed. See **LEGIONNAIRE**.

LEGIONNAIRE, noun. A member of the American Legion, an organization to which only soldiers of the United States army who fought in the World War may become members. 1920.

¹ Mencken, H. L., The American Language, 1936. "The Materials of Inquiry," p. 62.

LEMON, noun. (Slang.) An undesirable person; a pessimist.
1912.

LETTERGRAM, noun. A telegram, longer than an ordinary message, sent at rates lower than the standard message rate in consideration of its being sent and delivered subject to priority in service of regular messages;--called also day-letter, night-letter. Not listed.

LION, noun. A member of any of an association of civic clubs (international association of Lions Clubs) founded in 1918 and affiliated internationally. Not listed.

LIONIZE, verb. To entertain as an honored guest; to shower attention upon, a person whose fame or renown is general. Recent. The action of lionizing a person is generally for the purpose of allowing the host or hostess to bask in the reflected glory of their guest.

LIPSTICK, noun. A kind of pomade, or perfumed ointment, for the lips, put up in stick form. Rouge for the lips compressed into the form of a stick. 1919.

LISTEN, verb intransitive. -----to listen in. To put one's self in a position to hear a telephonic, telegraphic or radio communication intended for someone else, or for many. 1904.

LITERATIZE, verb. To make into the form of literature; as, to literatize a story: also, often, to make literate.
1927.

LOOP, noun. An aerial maneuver in which the airplane describes an approximately circular path in the plane of the longitudinal and normal axes, the lateral axes remaining horizontal, and the upper side of the airplane remaining on the inside of the circle. 1914. This definition is not inclusive. The loop described above is an inside loop, while the outside loop has not been mentioned.

LOOP, verb transitive. To perform a loop in an airplane. 1914.

LOUD-SPEAKER, noun. A form of radio receiver for producing sounds loud enough to be readily heard without holding a receiver close to the ear; also, part of a device for enabling a speaker's words to be heard over a much larger territory than is possible without it. Part of a public address system.

LUG, noun. Recent. The condition of being forced to pay a part of one's salary to a political party, or movement; also, a part of the mechanism, other than the bolt, which holds a demountable rim to the wheel of an automobile.

LUG, verb. (Passive.) To be required to pay, to a political party or movement, a part of one's salary for the support of such party or movement. Recent. (Active.) To require (an employe) to contribute to a cause.

LUNG MOTOR, noun. A pulmotor. Not listed.

-M-

MAHJONG, noun. A complicated Chinese game, said to be of ancient origin, played usually by four persons, with 136 tiles similar to dominoes. By drawing and discarding the tiles, each player endeavors to secure four complete combinations, or sets of three tiles each, together with one pair. 1923.

MAILABILITY, adverb. The capability of being mailed; as, the package's mailability was not questioned. 1907.

MAJOR, verb intransitive. In a college, school or the like, to take a certain subject as one's chief object of study; to specialize in a particular subject--used with in; as, to major in mathematics. Also, used to denote the person having such a specialization; as, an English major. Early. 1890.

MAKINGS, noun. The articles, paper, tobacco, etc., which go into making a cigarette. 1907. Also used in connection with the ingredients of a drink.

MARIMBA, noun. A refined and improved form of the native marimba, having two rows of wooden bars with metal resonators below them, first designed and manufactured by J. C. Deagan, American musician and manufacturer. It is played similarly to the xylophone, but with less rapid execution because of its sustained notes. Not listed.

MASCULINISM, noun. The belief that men should be masculine in character, and that feminine duties and deeds should be left to the women. Also, the belief that men are superior and more able to rule, govern, think, etc., than women. Opposite of feminism. See **FEMINISM** above.

MAZOOMA (also mazung), noun. Money. 1907. According to H. Hoshin, mazung is derived from the Chaldean word, M'-ZUNGAN, meaning in literal translation, the ready necessary.¹ H. L. Mencken attributes the word to the Jewish section of New York,² classing the word with others such as kocher, shadchan, matzoth, yas kismur, mesnuggah, etc.

MELON, noun. -----to cut a melon. To divide the spoils or profits of an undertaking; to divide collected dividends among the officers of a firm. 1900.

MERCUROCHROME, noun. A red organic mercurated dye, dibromohydroxymercurifluorescein, or its green, crystalline sodium salt, used as a general antiseptic bearing the trademark Mercurochrome. Not listed.

MIKE, noun. A phonetic abbreviation of microphone, the equipment by which the voice is translated into electric impulses for broadcasting by radio. 1920. An affectionate term.

¹Hoshin, H., American Speech, May 1926, p. 456.

²Mencken, H. L., The American Language, 1936. "The Language Today," p. 216.

MILEAGE, noun. That part of the expenses allowed salesmen, soldiers, government employes and the like for travelling. Recent.

MILLAGE, noun. A rate (as of taxation) expressed in mills per dollar. Not listed.

MINCY, adjective. Mincing. Of or pertaining to short steps and quick small actions; as, a mincy walker. 1913.

MINERALIZE, verb transitive. To charge or impregnate with ore. Not listed.

MOIST, verb. To mist. 1916. The connotation of this word is slightly wetter than a mist and not quite a sprinkle.

MONUMENT, noun. Any natural feature, as a mountain, canon, natural bridge, etc., together with the land about it, which has been reserved by a government as public property. Not listed.

MOONSHINE, verb. To make moonshine. 1902.

MOOSE, noun. Often a member of the Progressive party; a Bull Moose. A member of a secret fraternal and beneficiary society founded in 1888 (loyal order of Moose). Not listed.

MORTICIAN, noun. An undertaker who is a member of the National Selected Morticians. Recent. Not listed. Now, generally, an undertaker. ". suffixes that have produced interesting forms are -ette, -don, -ster, -ite, -itis, -ician, -orium, -orist and -or. From -ician we

have the lovely mortician, and its brothers, beautician, cosmetician and bootician, to say nothing of whoontician, a college cheer-leader. In Hollywood they also speak of dialogicians.¹

"The American, probably more than any other man, is prone to be apologetic about the trade he follows. He seldom believes that it is quite worthy of his virtues and talents; almost always he thinks that he would have adorned something far gaudier. Unfortunately, it is not always possible for him to escape, or even for him to dream plausibly of escaping, so he soothes himself by assuring himself that he belongs to a superior section of his craft, and very often invents a sonorous name to set himself off from the herd. Here we glimpse the origin of a multitude of characteristic American euphemisms, e. g., mortician for undertaker, realtor for real-estate agent, electracist for electrical contractor, aisle manager for floor-walker, beautician for hairdresser, exterminating engineer for rat-catcher and so on."²

Discussing the word mortician, itself, Mencken says, "But mortician is in the public domain. It was proposed by a writer in the Embalmers' Monthly for February, 1895, but

¹Mencken, H. L., The American Language, 1936, Chapter V, section 2, p. 178.

²Mencken, H. L., The American Language, Chapter VI, section 6, p. 204.

the undertakers who were then funeral directors did not rise to it until twelve years later. On September 16, 1916, some of the more eminent of them met at Columbus, Ohio, to form a national association, on the lines of the American College of Surgeons, the American Association of University Professors and the Society of Cincinnati, and a year later they decided upon National Selected Morticians as its designation. To this day the association remains so exclusive that, of the 24,000 undertakers in the United States, only 200 belong to it. But any one of the remaining is free to call himself a mortician, and to use all the other lovely words that the advance of human taxidermy has brought in. Mortician, of course, was suggested by physician, for undertakers naturally admire and like to pal with the resurrection men, and there was a time when some of them called themselves embalming surgeons. A mortician never handles a corpse; he prepares a body or patient. This business is carried on in a preparation-room or operating-room, and when it is achieved the patient is put into a casket, not a coffin, and stored in the reposing-room or slumber-room of a funeral-home. On the day of the funeral he is moved to the chapel therein for the last exorcism, and then hauled to the cemetery in a funeral-car or casket-coach. The old-time shroud is now a negligee or slumber-shirt or slumber-robe, the mortician's work-truck is an ambulance, and the cemetery is

fast becoming a memorial-park.¹

MOTORCADE, noun. A procession of motor vehicles, often one proceeding on a trip of some length or duration. Not listed. In the case of motorcade, autocade, camelecade and aerocade, a new suffix, -cade, seems to have made its appearance.

MOTORDROME, noun. A track or course, usually inclosed and with seats for spectators, for races, tests, etc., of automobile vehicles. Not listed.

MOTORIZED, verb transitive. To substitute (motor drawn vehicles) for those which are otherwise drawn, or propelled by steam or electricity, as in a fire department, or a railway, or the like. 1918. From the word motorize has come the word motorization, a noun.

MOVIE, noun. Short and colloquial for moving picture. Recent.

MUCKRAKER, noun. A person, who, for delight or profit, tries to find base motives for human actions, especially (politically) a person who looks for wrong acts in the lives of candidates, and who publishes them. 1906.

MUCKRAKING, verbal noun. The acts or actions of a muckraker. 1906.

MUTUALISTIC, adjective. Of or pertaining to a mutual quality, or quality of agreement. 1902.

¹Mencken, H. L., The American Language, 1936, Chapter VI, American and English, section 6, p. 287.

-N-

NATIONALIZATION, noun. Act of nationalizing; specifically, as a doctrine of communism, the taking over by the state of private industry, as mines, factories, banks, etc., or industrial trade, or financial organizations or the control of any class of labor or service in the interests of the state. Not listed.

NATIONALIZE, verb. To unify nationally; to unify a nation within itself. 1922.

NEWSPAPERMAN, noun. One who writes for a newspaper; one who owns or conducts a newspaper; also, one who works for a newspaper in any capacity. Not listed.

NIPPONESE, noun. A Japanese; the Japanese. Not listed.

NIPPONIAN, adjective. Of or pertaining to the Nipponese, or Japanese. 1909.

NIPPONISM, noun. A characteristic or peculiarity of the Nipponese, or Japanese; the Japanese idiom or expression. Japanism. Not listed.

NIPPONIZE, verb transitive. To make Nipponese or Japanese. Not listed.

NONBEVERAGE, adjective. Of or pertaining to liquids not used as a beverage; not suitable for use as a beverage. Not listed.

NONCOOPERATION, noun. Refusal, through civil disobedience of a people to cooperate with the government of a country, especially, by non-payment of taxes, and, sometimes, by

boycotting the courts, legislative councils, educational institutions, etc.; used especially of the policy of Gandhi and his followers in India. 1920. Words derived from noncooperation are: noncooperate, 1921; noncooperation, adjective, 1922; noncooperating, adjective, 1922; and noncooperator, noun, 1924.

-0-

OFFERING, noun. A thing or article offered for sale. 1903.

OLYMPIAD, noun. The quadrennial celebration of the modern Olympic games. 1907. This is a revival of the Greek term indicating the number of years between changes in government. A revival.

ONE-STEP, noun. A lively round dance, in two-four time, the successive steps in a figure being the coupee, grapevine, whirl or turning step, drow step, dip and a variety of walking steps also, music for this dance. 1911.

ONE-STEP, verb intransitive. To do a one-step. 1916.

ONE-WAY, adjective. Reserved for anything, as, traffic moving in one direction; as, a one-way street. 1926. It is probable that this expression is much older than this, but I have been able to find no other reference to the words one and way used as a hyphenated word.

OPT, verb intransitive. To choose citizenship after transfer of territory to another sovereignty; as, according to

the treaty of Versailles, natives of that part of Schleswig restored to Denmark, not habitually resident, and of German nationality, were entitled to opt for Denmark; persons resident were entitled to opt for Germany. 1914.

From the word opt, a shortening of the word option, have been derived optant, noun, a person who opts, 1914; and opting, noun, the action of the verb, opt, 1922. It is probable that the word opt is entirely American, due to the habit of Americans in shortening difficult words, and of forming new words from old roots for new situations. It is probable, also, that the word opt was originally adopted by newspaper headline writers, because of the ease of its use in headlines. This is an example of what might be called a 'learned attempt' to coin a word to fit a hitherto unknown situation.

OPTIENCE, noun. A body of spectators, as at a moving picture show. Not listed. Audience, of course, refers to a group of people gathered in one place to hear something--music, speaking, etc. In an effort to exactly define a type of crowd, the word optience was created during the era of silent moving pictures, to describe a group who gathered in one place to see. The word has never become general. In many places where a crowd gathers to see, there is also an auditory accompaniment, justifying the name audience.

OUTLAW, adjective. Of or pertaining to outlaws; proscribed or interdicted by law or by the rules of an organization; as, an outlaw band; an outlaw labor union; an outlaw strike; and an outlaw ball player. Not listed. Originally a noun, the word was composed of the expression 'outside the law', and was shortened to the word as we know it.

OUTLINE, noun. A short summary, or compendium, often in the form of heads and subheads. Hence, specifically and recent, a compendious presentation, sometimes extending to several volumes, of the most significant features of a general subject; as, an outline of history, science or literature. Not listed.

OVERHEAD, noun. Those general charges or expenses collectively in any business which cannot be charged up as belonging exclusively to any particular part of the business, work or product, as taxes, rent, insurance, lighting, heating, accounting and other office expenses and depreciation. Called, also, in manufacturing, factory overhead, burden and in England, ONCOST. 1911.

-P-

PACIFICISM, noun. See **PACIFISM**, below. 1910.

PACIFISM, noun. The spirit or temper which opposes military ideals, emphasizes the defects of military training and the

cost of war and preparation for it and advocates the settlement of international disputes entirely by arbitration. 1901.

PACIFIST, noun. One who is imbued with pacifism; one who favors, advocates or supports pacifism; a pacificist. 1906.

PACIFIST, adjective. Of or pertaining to pacifism. 1908.

PACIFISTIC, adjective. Of or pertaining to or characteristic of pacifists or pacifism. Not listed.

PAGE, verb transitive. To see out, as by calling the name of, in order to give a message to, as pages or bell-boys do in a hotel. 1904.

PANAMA, noun. A kind of closely woven elastic cotton fabric, wiry in appearance, of basket weave, bearing the trade-mark, Panama. It is used especially for hat brims and crowns. Also, a kind of firm, smooth worsted of plain weave, made of hard twisted yarn, bearing the trade-name Panama. It is used especially for dresses, skirts and suits. Not listed.

PANHANDLE, verb transitive. To accost on the street and beg from. Verb intransitive. To accost people on the street and beg from them. 1905.

PANHANDLER, noun. One who panhandles. 1905. The word probably was coined from the fact that the arm of a beggar, extended for alms, resembles the handle of a pan. But there has been, and still is, no authority for such a statement.

PARK, verb. To halt (a vehicle, especially a motor vehicle) and to leave or keep standing anywhere out of doors;—rarely restricted to placing a vehicle parallel with others, at an angle to the curb. To place or leave (something) anywhere; as, he parked his feet on a chair. To stop (while in a vehicle) and remain standing; to leave a vehicle standing. To remain stationary. 1908. "To park is in Piers Plowman, C-Text, 143, c. 1390: 'Among wives and widows I am wont to sit, y-parked in pews.'" But as Dr. Louise Pound points out in American Speech, May 1927, it then meant to be enclosed, shut up, confined. In the sense of to arrange artillery or wagons in a park it came into English during the Napoleonic wars, apparently influenced by French example. Its modern vogue, and great extension of meaning, came in with the automobile. In the United States, as Doctor Pound says, one may now park a child with a neighbor, or a suit-case in a cloakroom, or jewelry in a vault.¹

PASSIVE, adjective. Not self-active; not moving or acting of itself, -----passive balloon or airplane, one unprovided with motive power, -----passive flight, flight without motive power such as soaring or gliding. Not listed.

PASTEURIZED, participial adjective. A process, introduced by Dr. Louis Pasteur, by which milk, principally, or other liquids, are raised to a certain degree of temperature,

¹Mencken, H. L., The American Language, 1936, Chapter V, "The Language Today," footnote 6, p. 195.

- and kept there for a stated interval, to remove from it any microbiological growth that may be present. 1908.
- PASTORIUM, noun. A parsonage;--so called in some Baptist churches. Not listed.
- PATRIOTISM, noun. One who makes an ostentatious display of his patriotism, or who endeavors to make capital of it. Not listed.
- PATROL, noun. A unit of organization in the Boy Scouts of America. 1908. Also used in the sense of fire patrol, police patrol, etc., to indicate a group of men composing a unit of cooperation; also a fixed route or 'beat' covered by such a unit.
- PEACHERINO, noun. (Slang.) A peach; an admirable person, usually in reference to a woman; as, she is a peacherino. 1908.
- PENSCRIPT, noun. Handwriting; a piece of handwriting; matter written with a pen. Not listed.
- PERISCOPE, noun. An optical instrument used on submarines when submerged to a small depth, in battlefield trenches, etc., to enable an observer to obtain a field of view that otherwise would be impossible to get, as because of an intervening object, or the like. Early.
- PERSONNEL, noun. The body of persons collectively engaged in any employment service; as the personnel of an airship. Not listed. A substitute or euphemism for employees, from

which have sprung such euphonisms as personnel director, personnel bureau, etc., in place of employment manager, etc.

PETTER, noun. (American college slang.) One who pets. One who makes love to a person of the opposite sex without serious intentions. 1931.

PETTING, verbal noun. The action of the verb to pet; physical caresses, given promiscuously by the person of one sex to a person of the other. 1931.

PETTING-PARTY, noun. A party at which petting is indulged in; a party for the purpose of petting. 1925.

PHONE, noun. A telephone receiver, or one of a pair, used in radiotelephony. 1913.

PHONE, verb. To talk over a telephone. 1913.

PHONE, noun. A telephone receiver. Not listed. According to Webster's New International Dictionary, the word phone means only the receiving part of the telephonic apparatus. In common usage, however, phone means the whole of the apparatus, while receiver indicates the ear-piece.

PHOTOPLAY, noun. A play for representation or exhibition by moving pictures; also the moving-picture representation of a play. 1915. According to Mencken, "The first example of movie, in the Supplement to the Oxford English Dictionary is dated 1913, but the word was already six or seven years old by that time. Who invented it, no one knows. In these days, as now, the magnates of the movie industry

disliked the word, and sought to find some more dignified substitute for it. In 1912 the Essanay Company offered a prize of \$25 for such a substitute, and it was won by Edgar Strakosch with photoplay. But though photoplay became the title of a very successful fan magazine, it never displaced movie.¹

PHOTOPLAYER, noun. A moving-picture actor or actress. Not listed. See PHOTOPLAY, above.

PHOTOPLAYWRIGHT, noun. A person who composes photoplays. Not listed.

PICTURIZE, verb transitive. To make a picture or pictures of; especially, to represent by means of moving pictures; as, to picturize a novel. Not listed. See HOSPITALIZE, below, for discussion of trend.

PICTURIZATION, noun. Any play, novel, story, poem, etc., which has been picturized, i. e., made into a moving picture. 1920. It is possible that picturize and picturization came into being at about the same time.

PIE-EYED, adjective. (Slang.) Of or pertaining to drunkenness. Drunk. 1919. With the advent of prohibition into the United States, an enormous number of synonyms for drunkenness came into being, mostly, of course, through collegiate channels. An incomplete list² of such words

¹Moncken, H. L., The American Language, 1936, Chapter V, "The Language Today," p. 187.

²For a much longer list see "Slang Synonyms for Drunk," by Emanuel Premor, American Speech, December 1928.

includes tight, boiled, canned, cock-eyed, fraggled, fried, oiled, ossified, pifflicated, plastered, snozzled, stewed, stuccoed, tanked, woozy, etc. In connection with such words, "Perhaps the most striking difference between British and American slang," says Krapp, "is that the former is more largely merely a matter of the use of queer sounding words, like bally and swank, whereas American slang suggests vivid images and pictures."¹

PIGEONIER, noun. A man, or woman, who cares for and manages pigeons, especially homing pigeons. 1918.

PIKER, noun. One who is cautious, timid or afraid; usually, one who will not take a dare. 1901.

PLANE, verb intransitive. Of a boat, to lift more or less out of the water while in motion, as a hydroplane does. (Colloquial.) To travel in an airplane. See **VOLPLANE**, below. 1909.

PLAY-BY-PLAY, adjective. Since the invention of radio broadcasting, a word description of any game, convention, athletic event, etc., broadcast by radio; as, a play-by-play account. 1931.

PLUS, adjective. Having something more; possessing in a greater degree the characteristics implied in the noun; superexcellent; as, truth plus, style plus;--used after

¹Krapp, George, The English Language in America, Volume I, p. 114.

the noun. 1926. This word is probably the origination of advertisement writers, who seem to be on the look-out for words which will more readily express the superexcellence of their goods.

POLICEWOMAN, noun. A woman who is a member of the police; a woman who is doing police duty. Not listed.

POLLYANNA, noun. A girl of sunny disposition and irrepressible optimism who finds good in everything. Not listed. Pollyanna is the heroine of several stories by Mrs. John Lyman Porter. It is often used attributively as Pollyanna optimism, or Pollyanna philosophy, etc. For a similar word, see **BABBITT**, one of the characters in a novel by Sinclair Lewis.

POTATO, noun. A fragrant, succulent, tomato-like fruit produced by grafting tomato scions on potato plants. It is eaten raw as a salad, or cooked. Not listed.

POSTWAR, adjective. Of or pertaining to the actions, trends happenings, occurring after the war, especially after the World War. 1908.

PRECANCEL, verb transitive. To cancel (postage stamps) in advance of their use. Not listed.

PRECOOL, verb transitive. To cool beforehand; especially to subject to a process by which the temperature of (fruit or the like) is reduced to a certain temperature before shipment. 1904.

PREPAREDNESS, noun. State of being prepared; readiness; specifically, a state of military and naval preparation for defense in case of possible hostilities. Not listed.

PRESCHOOL, noun. An institution where children of preschool age are assembled, mainly in age groups, for observation and educational and social training. Not listed.

PRESCHOOL, adjective. Of or pertaining to the period in a child's life preceding attendance at school normally from infancy to the age of five years. Not listed.

PREVENTORIUM, noun. An establishment where persons, especially children exposed to disease as tuberculosis, receive prophylactic treatment. 1918.

"From -orium we have beautorium, healthatorium, preventorium, barberatorium, bobatorium (apparently a more refined form of bobateria), lubritorium (a place where motor cars are greased), infantorium, hatatorium, odditorium, pantorium or pantatorium, suitatorium and pastorium, besides printo-rium, restatorium, restorium and shavatorium."¹

PREVOCATIONAL, adjective. Pertaining to, or consisting of, instruction or work in manual training or the useful arts as it is given or required in the schools below the vocational school. Not listed.

PREWAR, adjective. Of or pertaining to happenings, actions, etc., before a war, specifically the World War. 1908.

¹ Mencken, H. L., The American Language, 1936, "The Language Today," Chapter V, p. 179.

PREXIE, PREXY, noun. (Slang.) The president or chairman, or head of any institution, especially a college or university.

PROFITEER, noun. One who makes what is considered an unreasonable profit, as by taking advantage of a public or national need in time of war. 1915.

PROFITEER, verb intransitive. To act as a profiteer. See **PROFITEER, noun, above.** 1916.

PROHIBITIONISM, noun. The beliefs, tenets, acts, etc., of those persons collectively, who believe in the prohibiting of alcoholic liquors from public consumption by force of law. 1915.

PROJECT, noun. A task or problem, usually calling for constructive thought or action, or both, by the student, and involving the learning or part of phase of school work. Not listed. Also, a governmental task or program viewed as a unit, and generally under a single management.

PROMOTIONAL, adjective. Pertaining to promotion; as, promotional examinations. In advertising and selling, the preliminary work done to place the name or character of a product, exhibition, work of art, etc., in the public mind.

PROPAGANDIZE, verb transitive. To propagate or disseminate (as principles or ideas) by organized effort; to subject to a propaganda; as, to propagandize monarchical principles; to propagandize a country. Not listed. Verb intransi-

tive. To carry out a propaganda. Not listed.

PROPAGAND, verb. To carry out a program of propaganda. 1901.

PRORATION, noun. The act or instance of dividing profit, production or expense, etc., among individuals according to a certain pre-arranged plan or degree of valuation.

PUBLICITY, noun. Advertising of any kind. Information with a news value, designed to advance the interests of a place, person, cause or institution, usually appearing in public print; as, the publicity was carefully prepared for the campaign. Often used attributively as a publicity bureau, a publicity man. Any action, or any matter spoken, written or printed, which secures public attention. Also, the attention so gained. 1904.

PULMOTOR, noun. An apparatus for producing artificial respiration by pumping oxygen or air, or a mixture of the two, into and out of the lungs, as of a person who has been asphyxiated by drowning, breathing gas, etc. 1913.

PUSHELL, noun. A game played by two sides numbering, usually, eleven each, with a large inflated ball, six feet in diameter, the object being to push the ball toward the goals at the opposite ends of the playing field, and then under or over the crossbar of the goal. Not listed.

PUSSYFOOT, verb intransitive. To tread or move softly, warily or sometimes stealthily, as a cat, or pussy, does; --sometimes with it as pussyfoot it. Often used figura-

tively with reference to the carrying out of plans or measures stealthily or in such a way as to conceal one's real purpose or to avoid responsibility. 1905.

PUSSYFOOTER, noun. One who pussyfoots, also, one who is an adherent of prohibitionism. 1921. Theodore Roosevelt was responsible for the propagation of the word pussyfooter, along with such words as strenuous-life, nature-faker, weasle-word, 100 per cent American, hyphenated-American, Ananias-Club, big-stick and embalmed-beef.¹

-Q-

QUARANTINE, noun. A restraint or interdiction placed upon the transportation of animals, plants or goods suspected of being carriers of disease or other pests. Not listed.

QUESTIONARY, noun. See **QUESTIONNAIRE**, below. Not listed.

QUESTIONNAIRE, noun. A set of questions for submission to a number of persons in order to get information on a certain subject, or to secure statistics from which deductions may be drawn. 1901.

-R-

RADIO, adjective. Of or pertaining to, employing or operated by, radiant energy, specifically that of electric

¹Mencken, H. L., The American Language, 1936, "The Language Today," p. 174.

waves; hence, pertaining to, or employed in, radiotelegraphy or radiotelephony or other applications of radio waves. Of or pertaining to electric currents or phenomena of frequencies between about 15,000 and $(10)^{11}$ per second. Not listed.

RADIO, noun. Radiotelegraphy, radiotelephony or other systems employing radio waves. A radio message or radiogram. A radio receiving set. (Colloquial.)

RADIO, verb transitive and intransitive. To send or communicate by radio; also, to send a radio message to (a person). (Colloquial.) 1926.

RADIOBROADCAST, verb transitive. To broadcast. See BROADCASTING, above. Not listed.

RADIOCAST, verb transitive and intransitive. See BROADCASTING, above. Not listed.

RANK, verb transitive. To place (vehicles, especially motor vehicles) one behind the other, parallel to the curb. Not listed. Also, the result of an examination wherein students are given a rating according to the excellence of their work.

RAP, verb. (Slang.) To speak unfavorably of. 1906.

RAP, noun. (Slang.) A prison term. Upon conviction for a crime, a sentence of a term of years to a prison. ---to take a rap. To plead guilty to a charge of criminality and to be sentenced to a term in prison. ---to give a

REP. To sentence to a term in prison.

REALTOR, noun. A real-estate broker who is a member of a local board having membership in the National Association of Real Estate Boards, an organization for the advancement of the interests of real-estate brokers and the protection of the public from unprincipled agents or brokers. 1922. Realtor was devised by a high-toned real-estate agent of Minneapolis, Charles H. Chadbourn by name. He thus describes its genesis.

"It was in November, 1915, on my way to a meeting of the Minneapolis Real Estate Board, that I was annoyed by the strident peddling of a scandal sheet: 'All about the Robbery of a Poor Widow by a Real Estate Man.' The 'real estate man' thus exposed turned out to be an obscure hombre with desk-room in a back office in a rookery, but the incident set me to thinking. 'Every member of our board,' I thought, 'is besmirched by this scandal article. Anyone, however unworthy or disreputable, may call himself a real estate man. Why do not the members of our board deserve a distinctive title? Each member is vouched for by the board, subscribes to its Code of Ethics and must behave himself or get out.' So the idea incubated for three or four weeks, and was then sprung on the local brethren."¹

As to the etymology of the term, Mr. Chadbourn says:

"Real estate originally meant a royal grant. It is so connected with land in the public mind that realtor is easily understood, even at a first hearing. The suffix -or means a deer, one who performs an act, as in grantor, executor, sponsor, administrator."

RECALL, noun. (Political science.) The right or procedure by which a public official, commonly a legislative or ex-

¹ Private Communication from Charles H. Chadbourn to H. L. Mencken, September 28, 1935.

ecutive official, may be removed from office, before the end of his term of office, by a vote of the people to be taken on the filing of a petition signed by the required number of qualified voters. 1904. This term is the shortened form of recall of judicial decisions, the right or procedure of which court decisions may be directly reversed or annulled by popular vote, as was advocated, in 1912, in the platform of the Progressive party for certain cases involving the police power of the state.

RECEIVE, verb intransitive. To convert incoming radio waves into perceptible signals. 1907.

RECEIVER, noun. A receiving set. A receiving station. A person operating a receiving station. 1890.

RECEPTION, noun. Act or process of receiving. 1907.

RECONDITION, verb transitive. To restore (something worn) to sound condition by readjustments and replacement of parts. 1920. Also used attributively as, a reconditioned car, a reconditioned coat, etc.

RED, noun. A revolutionary or anarchist; especially one practicing or favoring revolutionary socialism. 1924.

REGISTER, verb transitive. To record photographically; hence (moving pictures), of an actor, to show, as an emotion, by facial expression, bodily movement, etc., also, to indicate, in a similar manner, consciousness of, or emotional response to (a sound or circumstance); used espe-

- cially before the advent of moving pictures when emotion, etc., had to be shown through facial expression. 1928.
- REINJECT, verb transitive. To inject again. Not listed.
- RELEASE, verb transitive. To permit, at a specified date, but not before, the publication, public performance, exhibition or sale of, etc.; as, President Roosevelt's speech for release August 2, 1936.
- RELEASE, noun. A play, record or the like that has been designated for release. A releasing, as of a play, record or the like; as, for release Monday. 1907.
- RENT, verb. To secure the use of in return for a stipulated amount of rent. 1911.
- RIDE, noun. -----to take for a ride. To force (a person) into a vehicle, for the purpose of taking him to a lonely spot in order to kill him. 1927.
- RIFLE, verb. To ruffle slightly. 1904.
- RIFFLING, verbal noun. The act or instance of ruffling slightly. 1911.
- RODEO, noun. A place where cattle are collected, especially a market place. An entertainment or public performance presenting the chief features of a round-up, as lariat throwing, horse-breaking, etc. Not listed. "The majority of the numerous Spanish loan-words in American came in before the Civil War, but the Spanish-American War added . . . (several) . . . and the popularity of Western

movies and fiction has brought in a few more, such as rodeo, hoosegow (from juzgado, the past participle of juzgar, to judge, and wrangler¹

ROOSEVELTIAN, adjective. Of or pertaining to the acts, beliefs, etc., of Theodore Roosevelt. 1915.

ROOSEVELTISM, noun. The acts, beliefs, philosophy, etc., which, collectively, make up the political philosophy of Theodore Roosevelt. 1915.

ROTARIAN, noun. A member of any of a large number of clubs (Rotary clubs) having the same constitution and affiliated under an international association of Rotary clubs. 1912.

ROTOGRAVURE, noun. A process of photogravure in which etched cylindrical plates, affixed to the rollers of a rotary machine, print illustrations and text, hence an illustration so printed. 1920.

RUBBER-STAMP, verb transitive. To sign with a rubber stamp. Hence, to approve, indorse or dispose of (as documents, or policy) as a matter of routine, usually without the exercise of one's judgment. Not listed. Also used attributively; as, rubber-stamp government, rubber-stamp policy, etc.

RUMRUNNER, noun. One engaged in bringing prohibited liquor ashore or across the border; one transporting alcoholic liquor. Not listed.

¹Mencken, H. L., The American Language, 1936, "The Language Today," Chapter V, p. 220.

RUSSELLITE, noun. One of a sect founded by Charles T.

("Pastor") Russell whose preaching and writing sought to establish the doctrine of the second coming of Christ. The Russellites constitute a society called the International Bible Students' Association. Not listed.

-3-

SCOFFLAW, noun. One who scoffs at, or violates, the law, especially a prohibition-enforcement law. Not listed.

Scofflaw was coined in 1924 by Henry Irving Shaw, of Shawshoen Village, Mass., and Miss Kate L. Butler, of Dorchester in the same state. Late in 1923 Delcevere King, a rich prohibitionist of Quincy, Mass., offered a prize of \$200 for the best word to apply to "the lawless drinker to stab awake his conscience." Mr. King received more than 25,000 suggestions, from which scofflaw was chosen. At the present time, the word has just about gone out of usage. It survived until the downfall of the prohibition movement.¹

SCOUT, noun. A member of the international organization of Boy Scouts; also, a member of the organization of Girl Scouts; also, in modern athletics, especially football, a person who attends athletic events in which enemy teams

¹ Henckon, H. L., The American Language, 1936, Chapter V, "The Language Today," p. 174.

are participating in order to gain information concerning plays, signals, style, strength, etc.

SCOUT, verb intransitive. To serve as a boy scout or a girl scout; also, in athletics, to fulfill the duties of a scout.. Not listed.

SCOUTCRAFT, noun. The craft, skill or practice of a scout. Not listed.

SCOUTHOOD, noun. The state or condition of being a scout; the period during which one is a scout; also, the character of a scout; the qualities befitting a scout or scouts as a class. Not listed.

SEAPLANE, noun. An airplane designed to rise from and land on water. 1913.

SECRETARIAT, noun. The entire body of secretaries in an office; the secretarial force and assistants of a secretary-general. The place where a secretary transacts his business, keeps records, etc. Not listed.

SEDAN, noun. An automobile having an inclosed body of one compartment seating four to seven persons, including the driver. A car of this type with permanent top but disappearing or removable sides is variously called open, touring or convertible sedan. Not listed. An interesting commentary on the various and diversified uses of the English language in England and America, consists of the words used to describe such a vehicle. In England, sa-

loon-car is the universal designation, while in America sedan is the accepted appellation. The American top, designating the roof of the vehicle, is the hood in England; while in America the hood is the part of the body covering the motor, in England bonnet is the name applied to this part of the automobile. In England, the rumble-seat is the dickey-seat, a roadster is a two-seater, low-gear is first speed, generator is dynamo, fender is wing, or mud-guard, a battery is an accumulator, and a lap-robe is a carriage-robo. One cannot fail to notice the descriptive quality of the American words in comparison to the English words.

SEGREGATIONALIST, noun. One who believes in a policy of segregation, as of races in a city. Not listed.

SEMIFINALIST, noun. Any of the players who meet in the semifinal round, the losers in the preceding rounds dropping out and not playing again. Not listed.

SEMI MANUFACTURED, adjective. Worked into a form that is valuable for further manufacture; partially manufactured; as, semimanufactured rope, semimanufactured steel, etc. Not listed.

SEMI POLITICAL, adjective. Partly political; as, a semipolitical gathering.

SEMI PRO, noun and adjective. Short for semiprofessional. Of or pertaining to those who engage in any sport for pay

or gain, but who are not engaged in it regularly or as their main calling or profession; also, the person so engaged. Not listed.

SEND, verb transitive and intransitive. See TRANSMIT, below. Not listed.

SERIAL, noun. In cinema, a photoplay depicting a long, continued story of which two parts comprising and consisting of two reels (2,000 feet) are shown at each of several performances.

SHACK, noun. A slow, ambling, shuffling gait. 1916. Also, in tramp argot, a brakeman on a railroad.

SHACK, verb. To move along with a slow, ambling, shuffling gait. 1916.

SHARK, noun. (American college slang.) A person who learns easily, one who is especially adept at certain occupations; as, he is a shark at learning, he's a shark with figures. 1909.

SHIP, noun. An airship. 1928.

SHORTCHANGE, verb transitive. To give less than the correct change, especially after a sale. Not listed.

SHORTHORN, noun. A tenderfoot. A person, especially in the west, one from the east, unused to the ways, customs, etc., of the locality. 1905.

SHORT-STORY, noun. In narrative literature, a relatively brief prose story characterized by singleness of effect,

uniformity of tone, and dramatic intensity, usually having as a plot a single action represented at a crisis. Not listed. Formerly short-story was represented by the two words short and story.

SHOOT, verb. To take a picture with a camera. 1916.

SHOP, verb. To dismiss from service; to fire; as, he was shopped at noon yesterday.

SHOP, verb. To look for work; to seek employment, as, he was shopping for a job.

SHOT, noun. A picture, usually taken with a camera. 1929.

In the field of the cinema, a shot is the amount of film used while the camera is turning. Usually, shot is preceded by an adjective; as snap shot, camera shot, etc.

SIGN, verb. -----to sign off. To announce the end (of a message, program, etc.), and discontinue broadcasting, transmitting, etc. Popularly used (slang) as a command, to stop talking. Not listed. Also, used in the sense of to stop bidding in the game of contract bridge.

SINGLETON, noun. A dollar. 1903.

SIMP, noun. Short for simpleton. One who is not possessed of all of his mental facilities; one who is foolish. A simpleton. 1916.

SKELETONIZE, verb transitive. To reduce (as a regiment) to its skeleton, that is, to a number of men and officers far below its component number. Not listed.

SKYMAN, noun. An aeronaut; a pilot. Not listed.

SLACKER, noun. One who avoids exertion or neglects duty or responsibility; specifically, a person who shirks duty or obligation to his country, especially in time of war, as by attempting to evade military service. Not listed.

SLAPSTICK, noun. A device made of two flat pieces of wood fastened together at one end, but loose at the other, sometimes used in farce or low comedy, by one actor in striking another in such a way as from the loud noise to make it appear that the blow was a severe one. Often used attributively; as, slapstick comedy. 1906.

SLEUTH, verb. To play at detecting; to play at being a detective. 1904. At the present time, the word sleuth indicates an amateur detective.

SMOCK, noun. A woman's overgarment somewhat resembling the smock frock, but often made of fine material. Not listed. Now used to designate any garment, masculine or feminine, large enough to cover other clothing, and rather short, to keep out dust, paint, etc.

SNAP, noun. Soft, easy, not difficult; as, it is a snap, the job is a snap. 1909.

SNEAK, noun. A stealthy movement, a leavetaking without the knowledge of others; as, to take a sneak, to leave without being noticed. 1904.

SNEAKER, noun. A shoe of the type having soft, usually rub-

ber, soles. A shoe that makes no noise when trod in.
1911.

SOAR, verb intransitive. To fly without engine power and without loss of altitude, as in a glider. 1902.

SOB-STUFF, noun. Writing or speaking, having a tendency to bring to the fore any emotional quality. 1920. Usually the word is used in connection with newspaper writing, and inaugurates such words as sob-story, sob-sister (a woman writer), etc. "It is difficult now," says Ernest Weekley, "to imagine how we got on so long without the word stunt, how we expressed the characteristics so conveniently summed up in dope-fiend, or high-brow, or any other possible way of describing that mixture of the cheap, pathetic and ludicrous which is now universally labelled sob-stuff."

SOLIDARIST, noun. One who believes in, or advocates, a social organization based on solidarity of interests. Not listed.

SOURDOUGH, noun. A man living in the open, especially a prospector in Alaska or Canada; so called from the sour dough, carried in a lump and used in making bread. Not listed.

SOVIETIZE, verb transitive. To change or convert to a government by soviet or soviets; communize, bolshevize. 1920.

SPECTACULARISM, noun. Quality or state of being spectacular; spectacularity. 1924.

SPEEDSTER, noun. A high-speed roadster, usually with a low seat accommodating two persons seated side by side. 1918.

SPIKE, noun. A two-year buffalo. 1931.

SPOONERISM, noun. An accidental transposition of sounds, usually the initial sounds of two or more words; as, a blushing crow for a crushing blow. Not listed.

SPORT, SPORTS, adjective. Pertaining to, or suitable for, sports, especially outdoor sports; hence, made in a style suitable for informal outdoor wear; as a sport, or sports, skirt, hat, shoe, etc. Not listed.

SPOTLIGHT, noun. The projected spot or circle of light, now generally thrown by an electrical apparatus, used to illuminate brilliantly a single person or object or group on the stage, leaving the rest of the stage more or less unilluminated; hence, conspicuous public notice. 1922.

cf. **LIMELIGHT**. A small light having a powerful reflector, attached at or near the dash of an automobile vehicle which can be adjusted to light up objects ahead of, or to the side of, the vehicle. 1924.

SPOTLIGHT, verb transitive. To throw a spotlight on a person; to make a person conspicuous through publicity. 1926.

STABILIZATOR, noun. A stabilizer. Not listed.

STABILIZE, verb transitive. To maintain, or to make it possible to maintain, the equilibrium of (a flying machine, etc.), by means of fixed surfaces or gyroscopic or other

devices not manipulated by the pilot. 1916. To make or hold steady; to prevent fluctuations; as, to stabilize prices.

STABILIZER, noun. A tail plane. Not listed. A mechanical device to stabilize the motion of an aircraft, such as a gyroscopic device, a pendulum device or the like. 1918.

STAFF, verb transitive. To supply (an organization, or the like), with a staff of officers or teachers. Not listed.

STAGGER, verb transitive. To arrange (as the elements, or parts of, or periods of time), alternately in zigzag order, or successively in a varying but regular order; as, to stagger the closing hours of shops and offices. 1915.

STANDOUT, noun. An outstanding person; one who is conspicuous, publicly, because of physical features, deeds, actions, etc. 1923.

STATIC, noun. A type of atmospheric disturbance resulting from accumulation of electric charges on or near the antenna, as from snowflakes, heat, wind, etc. 1913. Also used for stationary.

STATION, noun. A place, as a room, or building, equipped for transmitting or receiving radio signals. Not listed.

STEADY, noun. A sweetheart, beau, fiance, etc., one who is the steady consort or companion of one of the opposite sex. 1922.

STERILIZE, verb transitive. To render a region unproduc-

tive of military power by forbidding the construction or maintenance of any fortification or the maintenance or assembly of any armed forces, as by the Treaty of Versailles for the left bank of the Rhine in Germany. Not listed.

Also, the desexualization of human beings.

STICKABILITY, adverb. The ability to stick to a project, occupation, duty, obligation or the like; endurance. 1922.

STREAMLINE, noun. The path of a small portion of fluid, supposedly continuous, commonly taken relative to a solid body with respect to which the fluid is moving;--generally only used of such paths as are not eddying. 1907.

STREAMLINE, verb transitive. To give a streamline form to; to design or construct, as an automobile or airplane, with a streamline form. 1913.

STREAMLINE, adjective. Of or pertaining to a streamline; designating a motion or flow that is free from turbulence, like that of a free particle moving in a streamline; hence, designating a surface body, etc., designed to afford an unbroken flow of fluid about it, especially when the resistance to the flow is the least possible, as, a streamline body for an airplane, airship or automobile. 1907. The use of the word in connection with railroad trains was first used in 1930.

STRIP, noun. A series of squares or boxes, in pen or pencil, in which are drawn figures, characters, situations

and the like; the whole of five or six frames consisting of a portion are the whole of a story pictorially; a comic strip. 1928.

STRIP, verb. To reduce a non-commissioned officer to the ranks. 1919.

STRIPE, noun. A piece of gold, silver, silk or cotton braid, as on the sleeve of an officer's coat, used to indicate rank or length of service. Not listed.

STRIPER, noun. One who wears stripes on his sleeve to indicate rank or length of service--used in the United States navy with reference especially to midshipmen, officers at the United States naval academy, and generally in combination, as, one-striper, etc. Not listed.

SUBSURFACE, noun. That portion of a body of water which lies immediately below the surface. Not listed.

SUITCASE, noun. Also suit case. A flat rectangular valise or travelling bag large enough to contain a suit of clothes;--originally called a dress-suit case. Not listed. In recent years, suitcase has come to stand for any article of luggage not too large to be carried by hand, but larger than a travelling bag.

SUNDAE, noun. A concoction of ice-cream and fruit syrups and nuts. 1904. According to John Fairweather, "Sundae remains a mysterious word. All the dictionaries connect it with Sunday, but none of them ventures to trace the

steps. The first use of the word cited by the Oxford Supplement was in the New York Evening Post for May 21, 1904, and it was there spelled sundi. A popular etymology runs thus: In 1902 or thereabouts there was a sudden craze for enforcing the Blue Laws in Virginia (or some other southern state), and selling ice-cream soda on Sunday became hazardous. An ingenious druggist seeking to baffle the police, decided to give the beverage a new appearance and name, and so added a few berries to it and called it a sundae, in occult reference to the day.¹ This is offered for what it is worth, which is probably not much.

SUPERPOSE, verb transitive. To place (main supporting surfaces) one above another. Not listed.

SURTAX, noun. Specifically in the United States, a graduated income tax, in addition to the normal tax, imposed on the amount by which the net income of any individual exceeds a certain sum. 1930.

SWITCH, verb transitive. Figuratively, to turn aside; divert, shift. Not listed.

-T-

TANGO, noun. A difficult dance in two-four time characterized by graceful posturing, frequent pointing positions

¹ Fairweather, John, London Sunday Times, August 25, 1928.

and a great variety of steps. Any of various popular dance forms derived from this. Also the music for such a dance. 1913.

TANGO, verb intransitive. To do a tango. To dance in the manner of a tango. 1913.

TASKSETTER, noun. One who sets a task or tasks; specifically, a workman whose rate of output on a specified task is used as a standard for other workers. One who sets the tasks of workers, designating the output to be obtained or the period of time for the performance of the task.

TAXI, verb intransitive. To ride in a taxicab; go by taxicab. 1918. To travel along the ground or on the water under the machine's own power, when picking out a starting place or coming in after a landing. Taxiing should not be said of the run for a start. 1912.

TECHNICOLOR, noun. A process by which moving pictures are colored as naturally as possible. A trade-name. 1930.

TECHNOCRACY, noun. A philosophy. 1932.

TEETERY, adjective. Unsteady, likely to fall; said of a chair or other object which is not steady. 1900.

TENDERFOOT, noun. The first of three grades of scouting. See **BOY SCOUT**. Not listed.

TERRITORIALISM, noun. Among the Jews, a doctrine, theory or movement which seeks to bring about the settlement of the Jews in some region where they will be autonomous, or

at least will have full political privileges and constitute a majority of the population.

THEATER, THEATRE, noun. Material or method suitable for successful presentation in a theatrical performance; as, a play of traded identity is not good theater. 1927.

THROWBACK, noun. A reversion to an ancestral type or to an earlier phase of civilization; also an instance or product of such a reversion; as, a throwback to puritanism. A reversal or backward deviation from one's path or route. A scene or action from the past interrupting the action of the present (moving pictures). Not listed.

THUMBPRINT, noun. An impression made by the thumb, especially a print made by the inside of the first joint and showing its characteristic lineation. cf. **FINGERPRINT**. Not listed.

THUMBPRINT, verb transitive. To make a thumbprint or prints of. Not listed.

TOPICAL, adjective. Of or pertaining to the topics of the day; containing allusions of local or temporary interest (often humorous) as a topical song. 1915.

TOURING, present participle and verbal noun; hence participial adjective. (Automotive.) Of a coupe or sedan, having a permanent top but removable sides or disappearing panels and frames along the sides, which can be made open from windshield to back. 1903.

TRACK, noun. Collectively, a number of competitive exercises comprising foot races, weight throwing, jumping, etc., often used attributively as track athlete. Not listed.

TRACTOR, noun. An automobile used for drawing or hauling something, as a vehicle, plow or harrow. 1912. An airplane (commonly single engined) having the propeller or propellers forward of the main supporting surfaces;-- called tractor airplanes. 1903.

TRAFFIC, noun. The vehicles, persons, etc., passing along a street or road; the vessels, etc., which pass along a river, through a channel or the like. 1927.

TRAINEE, noun. One who is undergoing training. Not listed.

TRANSATLANTIC, noun. One who dwells, or something that is, across the Atlantic ocean; especially an American. Not listed.

TRANSFEREE, noun. One who is transferred, as from one grade or position to another. Not listed.

TRANSHUMANCE, noun. The seasonal moving of live stock, especially from plains to mountains and back to secure pasture. 1911.

TRANSHUMANT, noun. One, especially an animal, who is undergoing transhumance. 1932.

TRANSHUME, verb. To move (stock, animals and the like) from one part of the country to another, generally in search of pasture, water, etc. 1932.

TRANSMISSION, noun. The act or process of transmitting; also, passage of radio waves in the space between transmitting and receiving stations. 1907.

TRANSMIT, verb transitive and intransitive. To send out (a signal) by means of radio waves. 1923.

TRANSMITTER, noun. A transmitting set. A transmitting station. A person operating a transmitting station. 1898.

TRANSPOLAR, adjective. Moving or extending across the (north pole or south pole) or polar regions; as, a transpolar flight. Not listed.

TRAPEZING, noun. Act or action of performing on the trapezoid. Not listed.

TRAVELOGUE, noun. A talk or lecture on travel, usually with illustrations, as with the stereopticon or cinematograph. 1904. According to Burton Holmes, traveller and lecturer, "In 1904 we planned an invasion of London with our lectures--a word that repels the ticket-buyer. My late manager, Louis Francis Brown, worried himself sick over the problem. When he came out of his pneumonia delirium he murmured weakly, 'Burehm! Travelogue,' and we proceeded to broadcast the word in our publicity."¹ The late Dr. R. R. Bowler (1848-1933) has claimed the honor of coining the word, showing his publicity, much earlier than that of

¹ Mencken, H. L., The American Language, 1936, Chapter V, "The Language Today," p. 171, footnote.

Holmes, to prove his contention. In his publicity, he makes the statement, "Each of Ector Bowler's lectures is a complete travelogue of " He had never used the word in any other way.

TREAD, noun. Of a vehicle, especially an automobile, the distance from side to side between the points of contact with the road, or other surface, of a pair of wheels; the gauge. Not listed.

TRIENNIAL, adjective. Triennial. (Rare.) Not listed.

TRUSTIFY, verb transitive. To form into a trust; make a trust out of (as by combining a number of separate businesses); chiefly in the past participle, trustified. Not listed.

TRYOUT, noun. In sports, a test by which the fitness of a contestant to remain in a certain class is determined; hence a similar test or trial of one in any occupation, calling or the like; as, a theater tryout; a racing tryout. Not listed.

TUBE, noun. An electron tube. One of a series of electron tubes used both in radio transmitting and receiving. Not listed.

TUNE, verb intransitive. -----to tune in (out). (Radio.) To adjust the receiving apparatus to resonance with the frequency of a particular sending station from which signals are to be received. To tune away from 1913.

-U-

UKULELE, noun. A kind of small guitar with four strings, used originally in Hawaii. 1900.

ULSTERETTE, noun. A light ulster. Not listed.

ULTIMACY, noun. State or quality of being ultimate. Not listed.

UNDER-SEA, adjective. Being, or carried on, under the sea, or under the surface of the sea; as, under-sea fighting. Not listed.

UNDERSEA, UNDERSEAS, adverb. Under the sea; beneath the surface of the sea; as, a submarine moving underseas. Not listed.

UNDERSLUNG, adjective. Of an automobile body, suspended from the springs in such a fashion that the frame of the chassis is below the axles, the object being to lower the center of gravity. Not listed.

UNSCRAMBLE, verb transitive. To separate (a conglomeration) into its original elements;--originally in the phrase "you can't unscramble eggs" attributed to J. P. Morgan. Not listed.

UPHEAVALIST, noun. One who aims at a social upheaval or overturning. Not listed.

UTILITY, noun. In full, PUBLIC UTILITY. A business organization which regularly supplies the public with some com-

modity or service, as gas, water, electricity, transportation, etc. Also used attributively; as, utility holding companies; a utility merger. Not listed.

-V-

VALORIZE, verb transitive. To enhance, or attempt to enhance, the market price or price of by valorization. 1921.

VAMP, noun. One who vamps; a vampire, as in a novel, play or the like. 1916.

VAMP, verb intransitive. To take the part of a vampire, as in a play; act the vamp, beguile; often used humorously. To treat as a vampire night. 1922. Also used to indicate the process of rearranging a score of music for presentation by a specialized group of musicians or a soloist.

VAMPIRE, noun. Figuratively: one who lives by preying on others; in recent use, especially an adventuress, specifically, a seductive female (rarely, a male) character in a novel, play or the like, whose evil motives or actions form an important part of the plot; also an actress who takes such a part. 1923.

VANITY, noun. A small receptacle, usually in the shape of a handbag or box, fitted out with toilet articles such as a compact;—called more fully, according to its forms, vanity bag, vanity box, or vanity roll. 1922.

VAUDEVILLE, noun. An act or performance, usually not more

than 15 or 20 minutes in length and played in conjunction with some other performance; as, a moving picture show, and containing acts of comedy, juggling, or the like.

1911.

VAUDEVILLIAN, adjective. Of or pertaining to vaudeville.

A vaudevillist. 1927.

VESTEE, noun. An ornamental adjunct of dress suggesting, or worn in place of, a vest, or waistcoat; as, a garment of brightly colored broadcloth, or the like, resembling a waistcoat but having neither armholes nor back, worn as part of a riding habit. An article of female attire, as one of organdy or satin, with or without collar, worn to fill in or ornament the front of a dress or suit. 1930.

VICTROLA, noun. A trade-name. A musical instrument, composed of a sharp needle, a resonator and a speaker, which produces music by running the needle along grooved tracks in a wax disc upon which musical vibrations have been recorded. 1919.

VOLPLANE, verb intransitive. To glide in a flying machine.

Not listed.

VOLSTEADISM, noun. The beliefs, theories, etc., commonly attributed to Andrew Volstead, author of the Federal Prohibition Act, which preceded the prohibition amendment.

VOUCHER, verb transitive. To vouch the truth or correctness of, as an account; attest; certify. Not listed.

-W-

WARPLANE, noun. Any airplane attached to the military or naval service, especially one designed for the purpose of war or engaged in warfare. 1915.

WESTSIDER, noun. A resident of the west side, the slum district, of New York City, New York. 1903.

WET, noun. One who was actively opposed to the prohibition of alcoholic beverages in the United States, during the period from 1920 to 1933. One who is still opposed to the prohibition of alcoholic beverages. 1912.

WHITE MULE, noun. Similar to **MOONSHINE**. A particularly violent form of whiskey, having an almost immediate action on the physical and mental qualities of the one drinking it. 1928.

WHITWINGS, noun (pl.). White-uniformed street-cleaners;-- a term first applied to those organized in 1895 by Col. G. E. Varin for cleaning the streets of New York City. (Slang.) Not listed.

WINDSHIELD, noun. A shield or screen of glass set in a metal frame, extending upward from the body of a motor car to protect the occupants from wind, rain, etc. Not listed.

WIRELESS, verb transitive and intransitive. To send or communicate by radio-telegraphy; also, to send a wireless

message to (a person). 1901.

-X-

XYLOPHONIC, adjective. Of or pertaining to a xylophone; like a xylophone, as in sound. Not listed.

XYLOPHONIST, noun. One who plays on a xylophone. 1927.

-Z-

ZERO, ZERO HOUR, noun. The hour at which a previously planned movement is started. 1918.

ZONE, verb transitive. To partition (a city) by ordinance into zones, as residence, business or manufacturing, and within which the buildings may not exceed prescribed heights or cover more than a designated percentage of the area of lots, etc. 1922.

ZOOM, verb intransitive. To climb for a short time at an angle greater than that which can be maintained in steady flight, the machine being carried upward at the expense of its stored kinotic energy.

ZOOM, noun. Any sudden increase in the upward slope of the flight path of an aircraft. Not listed.

CONCLUSION

It has been impossible in this discussion of changes in American speech since 1900, to include the discussions of cant words and slang words. The time permitted me in finishing this work, and the length of the finished thesis if the two named categories were included, have prohibited their inclusion. The conclusions to be gained from the foregoing thesis, then, are conclusions that have been arrived at from facts presenting themselves through the medium of the list of legitimate words and their dates, histories and other factors.

From the foregoing vocabulary of new and changed words, then, the following conclusions have seemed justified:

First: the English language, in comparison with the American language, is growing very slowly. No living language ever stops adding new words to its vocabulary. That fact is true. However, when compared to the speed with which new words, both legitimate and slang, have been added to the American language, and when compared to the ways in which old words have been changed to suit modern needs and emergencies, the English language appears to have a decided lack of life.

Second: the American language is an integrated language. Throughout the United States, the same language is

common and understandable. This has worked for a much more quickly growing language. England, on the other hand, is a country of dialects. The cockney language of the lower class Londoner, in one instance, is possibly understood but never utilized by the other classes of that city: The language of central England, furthermore, is not utilized by the Northumberland people, or by the people of Wales or Cornwall. Each of the divisions of England seems to have its own dialect, a dialect almost like a foreign language to the rest of the country. The foregoing facts make it impossible for new words to become common. A new word may be used by one section of the country, while remaining unknown in the other sections. Consequently, the word may die a premature death.

Third: the growth of the American language has been rapidly enlarging due to the discoveries of scientists and inventors, and the rapid commercialization of this comparatively new country. It is interesting to note that four roots, the radio, the automotive industry, including automobiles and airplanes, the moving picture and psychology and psychoanalysis, have added at least 50 per cent of the new words to the language since the year 1914. The percentage has not been so great in the growth of the language since 1900, but has still occupied a great deal of the growth of the language for the past 36 years.

Fourth: the speed with which the language of America has grown, and the changing and diversified methods with which the American people have been expressing themselves when compared with the mother country of England, has kept pace with the speed at which the American people conduct their daily lives. Whether the speed of its existence has modified the language, or whether the growing language has contributed to the speed of the average American life, cannot be ascertained with exactitude. It is possible that the two travel together, and that they both are cause and effect in the daily routine of our lives. It has been said that language is life. Should this be true, then the American continent, with its speeding life and language, has proved this without the shadow of a doubt.

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